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No. 155.

MARGARET'S PROMISE.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

- "What shall I bring you, Margaret?
 A bunch of roses red,
 Or lilies for your snowy breast,
 Or violets instead?"
- "Oh, bring me what you like," she said,
 "And I will be content;"
 I saw her rosy cheeks grow red,
 Although her head was bent.
- "Well, I have brought it, Margaret,"
 I whispered, tenderly:
 "You promised you would be content,
 And left the choice to me."
- "I will not break my word," she said;
 "What is it you have brought?"
 "A heart that loves you, Margaret,
 And many a tender thought."
- "And you must take it, Margaret; And make your promise good; Say, will you, dear, or will you not? You know you said you would."
- "Well, if I must, I must?" she sung,
 As gayly as a bird:
 "Not, sir, because I want your heart,
 But just to keep my word?"

The Beautiful Forger:

THE ADVENTURES OF A YOUNG GIRL.

BY MRS. E. F. ELLETT, AUTHOR OF "MADELEINE'S MARRIAGE," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER I.

A DISCOVERY.

A DISCOVERY.

AFTER the American conquest of California, some of the descendants of the Spanish-Californians still held large landed estates. The social condition of the country was utterly unsettled about 1848, and Mexican and savage outlaws worked their will among the more civilized settlers, almost without fear of law.

There was a small settlement, or rancheria, at this early period, on King's river, near the point where its seven or eight channels unite again in a calm, broad stream—not far from what is now a port of entry and naval station, at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers, some fifty miles above San Francisco. Two or three miles from this hamlet, a rudely constructed but commodious house stood on ground overlooking a plain covered with water during part of the year. This house was noted as the residence of an eccentric though benevolent man, who had lived there but a short time. Dr. Merle had the fame of a skillful physician, and of something more. The ignorant common people who often profited by his medical advice, always bestowed gratuitously, believed that his chemical experiments aimed at wonderful diseoveries in occult science. It was rumored that he possessed secrets of nature unknown to mankind in general; and his strictly-secluded. eoveries in occult science. It was rumored that he possessed secrets of nature unknown to mankind in general; and his strictly-secluded habits, his love of study, and devotion to scientific research, had fostered this popular belief. Thus his humble home, shared only by his young daughter and an elderly housekeeper, with a surgical student who performed the duties of an assistant, became a spot marked by superstition among the farmers and herdsmen for miles around.

for miles around.

The red and gold of sunset had long since The red and gold of sunset had long since faded from the snowy peaks of the Sierra Nevads, and the dark distant masses were undistinguishable from the heavy gray clouds. Within the house was light enough to show a square room lined by shelves full of books and various utensils used in chemical experiments. A round oaken table in the center, on which stood the lamp, was littered with crucibles, small flasks, a pair of scales, and other paraphernalia of a lover of natural philosophy, who found his favorite occupation in making analyses, and concocting various useful compounds.

Dr. Merle was a man considerably past mid-dle age, with a thick, grizzled beard and masses of gray hair, dark complexion, and deep-set gray eyes. He wore an under-shirt with a blue flannel shirt outside, a neck-tie, loose trowsers, and long boots. His outer shirt was fastened with a blue sash over a belt in which a sheathed knife was secured. His form was tall and majestic, though not robust; his countenance

majestic, though not robust; his countenance frank and expressive; his whole appearance both dignified and prepossessing.

He was reading and noting passages from a volume on the table. Suddenly he looked up, listening; then rose and walked to the window. The October wind blew fiercely, bowing the heads of the trees in front of the gate. Through the fitful gusts he could distinctly hear another sound: that of a horse's hoofs, approaching nearer and nearer. nearer and nearer.

Dr. Merle opened the room door, stepped out

Dr. Merle opened the room door, stepped out into the passage, and then opened the front door, which was fastened by a bolt. A gust of wind blew back the hair from his forehead, as, peering out, he saw a horseman stop and dismount at his gate.

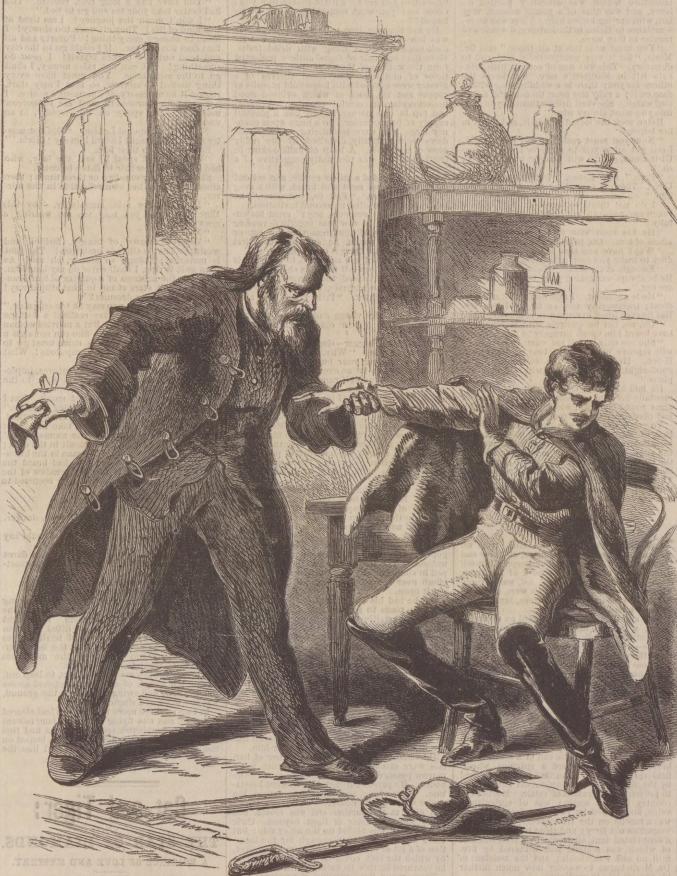
A visitor so late was strange in his dwelling; for though the humble settlers had often availed themselves of his medical skill, he had rarely been called forth to visit them except during the day. They realized that Dr. Merle was no ordinary practitioner; but one who craved solitude and leisure. An alchemist, intent on discovering powerful elixirs, or the transmuting metal whose touch could

"Make the black iron start forth brilliant gold."

"Make the black iron start forth brilliant gold," could not be mindful of the convenience or the small wants of simple rustics, when their im-portunity might interfere with the success of

The traveler fastened his horse carelessly at the gate, and entered the inclosure with a light and buoyant step. Even before the doctor could see his face, he was aware that it was a young man. Stepping back, he threw the door wide open, and invited his visitor into the

The stranger followed, as bidden, and took the seat offered, removing his cap as he did so. He pushed the chair back from the lamp, but He pushed the chair back from the lamp, but there was light enough to see that his features were delicate and his complexion smooth; the fairer from the contrast of a thin, black, silky mustache. His cloak, which he retained, was of dark serge bordered with black fur; a black silk scarf was tied around his neck, and he wore thick leather gloves. He looked around the room furtively, as if uneasy; yet his manner had a rather unusual swagger; it was as if he was striving to conceal apprehension by an afwas striving to conceal apprehension by an affectation of boldness.



"Aha, Madame!" he exclaimed. "It is as I half suspected. You are masquerading in disguise!"

Dr. Merle took from a shelf a black bottle ! ortaining wine, poured some into a battered silver cup, and offered it to his visitor.

"You have ridden far," he said, "and ought

"You have ridden far," he said, "and ought to take some refreshment."

The stranger started, but declined the wine.
"How do you know I have ridden far?" he asked, after a moment's hesitation.
"Your horse bears the marks of long and rapid riding," returned the doctor, "and you are heated with the exercise. You had better take something." something."
Again the hospitality was declined, with

You have not been very long in this place?"

at length the young man asked.

"A little more than a year. I came up from the South. But you probably know all about

me."

"I have heard that you lived for years in Mexico, and that you are noted for your skill in medical science."

"I do not know about that, I left Mexico years ago." He paused, aware that the young stranger was intently studying his face. Then he returned the gaze; for his curiosity was piqued by the voice and manner of the youth, so much superior to those he was in the habit

o much superior to those he was in the habit so much superior to those he was in the habit of seeing.

The stranger evidently shrunk from particular observation. "You may think it strange," he said, not without embarrassment, "that I should come to you, at such an hour of the evening, unprovided with an introduction. But I wish to consult you confidentially."

"To consult me?"

"Or rather, to ask your aid in the strictest confidence. I am convinced of your skill. May I speak to you, assured that your secrecy may be equally relied upon?"

"It is a part of my profession to be discreet, as well as skillful," replied the doctor.

"But yours is not— I mean you are not an ordinary physician?"

"I do not practice in general. But if I can be of service in any case of emergency, you may command me."

"Thanks. I will trust you in every thing."

may command me."
"Thanks. I will trust you in every thing.
My father has an aged servant who has for years
suffered with an intensely-painful disease which
is entirely incurable. So terrible are its ravages
upon his system that only the more violent
drugs have the least effect; and those are soon
randered powerless: so that he has no relief. I am sent for a medicine more potent than any he

has yet taken. It is composed of two or three ingredients; they are written here, with the proportions."

He took from his vest-pocket a folded paper, and handed it to Dr. Merle, who opened it and read what was written. He started as he did so in evident surprise; then folded up the paper, and laid it on the table.

per, and laid it on the table.

"Are you aware, young man," he said, "that the ingredients composing the medicine you wish to procure make it one of the most active poisons known?" he asked, fixing his eyes on

the stranger's face.
"I was not—that is—I knew it must be something powerful; for nothing else does any good," the youth answered, without changing co

""A poison—and one perfectly untraceable."

The doctor thought he noticed a sinister leam in his visitor's eyes as he said this. He

"It is strange your father should have sent you on such an errand."
"He had no one else on whom he could de-

pend."
"True; it must have been so. It would not do to trust such a medicine in the hands of ignorant persons."
The doctor rose, walked to a cabinet in the corner of the study, unlocked it and took out two or three small crystal flasks. Out of each of these he poured successively a little into another, and from this filled with a pale violet-colored liquid a glass vial, which he corked tightly.

The stranger watched him eagerly. At the same time he drew from his breast-pocket a purse well filled with gold. As the doctor returned to his seat, he took out three coins, and held them out, as in exchange for the drug he

expected to receive.

"Put back your money, sir," said the doctor, somewhat haughtily. "I'd not take pay for medicines, till I know they work well."

"But this is sure to do so. Will you give it

'Not till I receive a satisfactory declaration that it is to be administered for the saving of life and not for its destruction."

The young man bowed his head, but the doctor noticed that he grew very pale.

"You have not given me your father's name, and I have not asked it; for as you come from a distance, it is not likely I know him—"

"Indeed you would not—"

"What security have I, then, that this liquid, which will cause death if not given with the utmost caution—death without a trace of its effect—is not designed to work evil? You can see by the directions pasted on the vial that thirty drops are sufficient to destroy life instantaneously. What pledge can you give me that it will be used for a good purpose?"

"I will pledge you my word—"
"I want more than that. I require a solemn oath."

"An oath ?" "An oath on this book," and the doctor pushed aside some parchments on the table and brought out a pocket Bible, which he handed to e young man.
"I will take no oath," the visitor exclaimed.

"If I were a murderer in intent, of what use would an oath be?" He pushed back the

"I require it, or you get no drug from me."
"You are unreasonable, Dr. Merle. I offer you liberal payment. In place of the oath, I will double the price, and give you my word be-

sides—"
"Nothing but the oath sworn on this book can satisfy me. Will you take it or not?"
"I will give you three—four times the price," said the stranger, earnestly, drawing back as if unwilling to touch the volume.
"I told you I wanted no money for my medicines. If I were unwilling to dispense with the oath a minute ago, I am more unwilling now. Your reluctance makes me believe you do not intend fair play."

The young man laughed as if in scorn at the suspicion. The doctor rose and went to the cabinet, as if to restore the vial to its place.

"Stay," exclaimed the visitor. "Since you are so terribly scrupulous, I give up. Have your own way, doctor."

"You will take the oath, then?"

Dr. Merle came again to the table.
"I will take it or any thing you like." I will

"I will take it or any thing you like. I will

"I will take it or any thing yerpeat after you."

The doctor took up the book reverently. The youth extended his hand to receive it.

"Not in a leathern glove!" cried Merle, drawing it back again. "Take off your glove, young sir. You should know better than to touch this book on such an occasion with covergablends."

The stranger uttered an exclamation of angry impatience, and made a movement as if turning away displeased. "As you please," said Dr. Merle. "The oath must be administered properly, or not at all. I will have no irreverence. I begin to think you know nothing of the nature of a solemn test like that."

"Fool!" muttered the young man in his teeth

"Fool!" muttered the young man in his teeth.

"As you please again. It is nothing to me whether you take this or leave it."

With suppressed rage, the young man began unfastening the glove on his right hand, drawing it off with evident reductance.

"Let me help you," said the doctor, taking in his firm grasp the slender wrist of his visitor; and with a sudden pull, he had the glove removed.

removed.

The hand was delicate, small, and white as

The hand was delicate, small, and white as milk; two of the slender fingers wore rings of great value. The owner of the hand struggled to release it, but it was held fast, while the doctor peered with his keen, flashing eyes into the flushed face averted from his gaze.

"Aha! Madame!" he exclaimed. "It is as I half suspected. You are masquerading in disguise!"

"Let me go, sir, this instant!"
"I must deal with you as the man you represent yourself. Let me relieve you of your cloak—so?" cloak—so P

In spite of the indignant struggles of his prisoner, Dr. Merle threw off the cloak, drew out the rapier, and quietly took off the false mustache. A velvet bodice, a short, tunic skirt, white silk hose and cavalier boots, formed the dress beneath the cloak; but the struggling had loosened fine platts of black hair concealed under thick brown curls, and these fell over the slender, graceful neck, leaving no doubt of the sex of the visitor.

Her cheeks were crimson; her eyes blazed defiance and fury; she stamped her foot in a tempest of passion.

"You shall rue this violence, sir!" she exclaimed, endeavoring to repossess herself of her rapier.

"Softly, madame! all in good time! You shall be satisfied. I am so already."

shall be satisfied. I am so already."

"How dare you—"
"I was not afraid of you as a man; as a lady, I humbly crave your pardon," replied the doctor, bowing. "It would have been better to come to me in your own character, for then you would have been safe from harsh usage."

Muttering threats of vengeance, the discomfited stranger, having secured her cloak and weapon, moved toward the door.

"Stay, madame; will you not take what you came for?"

The discussed woman turned back "Can I

The disguised woman turned back. "Can I have it?" she asked. "On the same condition; the oath I required."

She stepped up to the table and took the book in her ungloved hand. Dr. Merle repeated the terms of the oath, to which she carelessly assented, and, at his bidding, lifted the volume to her lips. Then she offered it to him to take it from her, and held out her hand for the vial, which she received in silence.

"I suppose it would be useless to ask why you have come to me?" the doctor said, stead-

fastly regarding her.
"Quite useless, sir. Your curiosity would be baffled. Good-evening." She flung on the cap and cloak, and strode from the room as she spoke.

Dr. Merle came after her with the light, but

before he could say aught to detain her, she had sprung upon her horse, and vanished in the

CHAPTER II.

As he returned into his study, Dr. Merle touched a small bell on the table. It was presently answered by a singular-looking being, the first sight of whom was startlingly repulsive, but more from the sinister expression of his face than any personal ugliness. He was apparently about twenty-eight years of age, uncommonly short of stature, but broad and robust. His full, compact, muscular frame gave promise of prodigious strength, and was not ungainly, notwithstanding his want of the usual hight. His movements were quick and agile. His arms were sinewy, his hands large but well shaped; his complexion was dark and muddy; his lips were thick, sensual, and dark red; his eyebrows and beard were heavy; the hair, black, straight, and luxuriant, hung in a mass over his ears and his broad forehead, within two inches of a pair of black, deep-set, flashing eyes, that gleamed at times from beneath the bushy brows with a leer of cunning mingled with ferceity. The eyes, hair, and chin showed the blood of a half-breed. Ulric Boyce was, in fact, the son of an Indian woman of high rank in her tribe, by a French surgeon, who had visited her country with a troop of European soldiers. He had lived with his father from infancy, and had been well educated, according to what was thought learning in that day. After his father's death, he returned to his mother's people, but did not remain with them. He had fallen in with Dr. Merle, who was in need of an assistant, and found Ulric's active habits and willingness to learn of valuable use. In this wild region, associates and domestics had to be chosen for other qualities than those which form the ground of attachment in social life. Ulric was anxious to perfect his knowledge of the science that had caused the savages to reverence his father. Dr. Merle's family.

"In saw a young gentleman ride away just now," answered Uric.

"Throw a saddle on my fastest horse, and follow him, but not so closely as to be avoided," said Dr. Merle. "Don't give the alarm to any one; I can trust you. That youn A REVELATION.

"She came on a strange errand; she wanted medicine—a poison. I could see that she meant mischief, so I gave her a drug that can do no harm! it is as innocent as pure water."

"Who is she?"
"That is what I want to know. Of course she would not give me her pages our fell re-

she would not give me her name, nor tell me where she lived. But you can easily find out. She will ride leisurely, for she has far to go. She went toward the east. Go, mount and follow her."

Shall I give her any message?"

"By no means. I only want to know where she lives, and what is her real name. She spoke of her father; he must be a wealthy man. I am convineed she has some evil purpose to accomplish, which it is the duty of a good citizen to frastrate. But I will not detain you. As soon as you have discovered her house or name.

soon as you have discovered her house or name, you can return to me."

The man bowed low, with a promise of strict

The man bowed low, with a promise of strict obedience, and went out. In a few moments he was heard riding rapidly from the gate. He took the direction indicated, following the road, and the moon just then appeared above the horizon of the east.

Dr. Merle seated himself again at the table, and drew a follo volume toward him; but he could not fix his attention on its contents. At last he pushed the book aside, and threw himself back in his chair, absorbed in deep thought.

A door at another end of the apartment from that opening on the passage was softly unclosed. A light form glided in, and came noiselessly to the chair where the physician sat. He half started up in surprise at seeing his new visitor.

his new visitor.
"Helen!" he exclaimed, in a tone that al-

most savored of reproach.
"Dear father, don't be vexed with me for this intrusion! But I was so anxious about Anxious!" he repeated.

"Anxious!" he repeated.
"You always go to your room early, very soon after I do, and I waited to hear your steps on the stairs. I could not imagine what kept you up beyond the time. You are not angry with me for coming to see, are you, father?"

And one white round arm was thrown fondly round Dr. Merle's shoulders, as the questioner bent forward to look in his face.

The girl was young and beautiful—of the delicately fair order, slender and lithe in form, with curling hair, golden brown, complexion like a pale rose, and features chiseled in classic mold. Her voice was low, sweet and caressing; her eyes were of a soft and tender blue, and their expression was loving and gentle.

their expression was loving and gentle.

She was the pearl of daughters, thought he whom she caressed, and his reproof of her vigils and her care melted into loving tenderness as he returned her expressions of affection. "But you must retire now, my dear child,"

he said. "I can not let you risk your health by remaining a late watcher." y remaining a late watcher."
"Come you then too, dear father."
"Not yet. I have to wait for Ulric."
"For Ulric? And where is he?"
"I have sent him of an errand."

"He can come in by the kitchen door. The window next to that is always unfastened. Why should you wait for him?" 'I must hear what he has to say when he

"Then, if you must wait, dear father, let me wait with you! Say not a word; I will not leave you alone." And the fair girl drew a low chair close to Merle's seat, and placed herself in it, leaning on him so that she could look up into his face

He passed his hand caressingly over her waving hair.
"My darling—my own Helen!" he murmur-

ed, tenderly.
"I want to ask you something, dear papa! I

"I want to ask you something, dear papa! I have long wished for an opportunity."
"What is it, little one?"
"You have not been well for some time, I have seen it. You have lost appetite lately, and you often grow so pale when you are sitting quietly here. There is a great change, father, since last summer."
He made no reply

He made no reply.

"Am I not right, dear father?"

"I fear you are, my child."

"Then why—why—do you not go to the great city and consult some eminent physician?"

Because it would be of no use."
Why not?" "I know enough to be sure of it. I have studied my own symptoms. In disorders of the

brain—"
"Father!" exclaimed the maiden, catching his arm, and looking at him with blanched face.
"Do not be alarmed, child. It is nothing sudden," said the doctor, again smoothing the golden hair. "But it is time you should know all; and I have had many warnings that my time may be short. I have long felt it my duty to talk to you. Helen, my love— There—do not sob."

The girl wept bitterly, pressing her face against his arm.
"Helen, you must be a brave girl, and help to keep up my courage. I may have need of you before long."

"Father, if you are ill, let us go to the sca-ore. You were so well, and we were so happy by the sea!"
"In Texas—you mean?"
"Oh, yes, papa; it was better than this—much better!"

I promise you to go from this place if I am

"I promise you to go from this place if I am worse. In any case, we shall not be here long." The girl's eyes flashed joyously.
"It is a gloomy home for you, child, and I do not mean to stay in it."
"Oh, dearest papa, I am so glad!"
"There is something more, Helen, which I have long wished to say to you. It ought to have been said long age."

have long wished to say to you. It ought to have been said long age."

"What is it, dear father?" urged the girl, clinging closer to him.

"You do not remember your first home, my child. That was in Paris."

"In Paris?"

"No—you were too young to recollect it. Let me tell you of it. I was a medical practitioner in Paris; it was—let me see—some fourteen years since—when I was sent for to attend a lady in the Rue St. Honore. I found her far gone in consumption; she died within ten days. The nurse—Margaret was her nurse—"

"Margaret—our Margaret?" cried the girl, in supprise.

"Yes, dear, this same faithful creature who has been with us so long. And—Helen—I must tell you a secret Lhave too long kept from you. You are not my child."
"Father! not your child!" exclaimed Helen,

"Father! not your child!" exclaimed Helen, starting from her seat.
"Only in love, dear one! Your mother—I believe that poor sick lady was your mother—commended you to my care—and I promised to keep you as my own until I found your real father. You were then about three years old."
"Not your daughter? Oh, papa!" and the weeping girl hid her face on Merle's knee.
"Margaret had been engaged by the lady after she had been left alone and became ill—and Margaret never knew her husband. She

and Margaret never knew her husband. She only knew he had sailed for South America. The suffering mother bound me by a promise to try to find her child's surviving parent. She gave Margaret the ample store of gold left with her. After her death, we crossed the ocean."

"Who is my father?" demanded the agitated girl.

girl.
"The lady's name was Madame St. Hillare. Her husband was a South-American merchant. She was English; it is from her you have your blonde hair and complexion. Some cruel cablonde har and complexion. Some cruel calumny and evil counselors brought about separation between your father and mother, and he returned to his own country, leaving his wife in Paris, where she fell into a rapid decline. It is a sad story, dear child."

"Go on "—the girl faltered, her voice broken by sobs.

by sobs.
"I have little more to tell. In the years to discover this since, I have shared no pains to discover this St. Hiliare. Leaving you in Texas, I traveled over the States, but could hear nothing. A rumor that a South-American merchant had settled in California brought us here. My inquiries have elicited nothing; and we may soon leave this country." leave this country

To go whither?"
To the States—to New York, or to Paris. It is the same to me. I have enough to live on, in our humble way, and we have always been happy, have we not?"

"Oh, yes—but if you are not my father!"
"I love you as my own child; and I shall keep my promise to your dead mother to take care of you while life is mine. But my health

is uncertain, and I ought to prepare and fore-warn you, my child. You may discover your father yet—though my research has been in

father yet—though my research has been in vain."

"Do you think I would leave you?"

"I hope not, I trust not. I pray that your hand may close my dying eyes. But you must not be unprepared for any change. Your father must have been a wealthy man, and he would surely be proud of his daughter."

"I would not live with a man who was so cruelto my mother! I want none of his wealth. I would stay with yon, even if he were found."

"So you should, if you wished, dear child. I know you love me."

"Do I not, my own dear papa?" and the girl clasped his hand in both hers, and again hid her weeping face on his knee.

"Come, Helen, you have nothing to grieve for, and my mind is now easy. Stay; here is something you must have."

He rose, went to the cabinet, and having unlocked it, took out a small casket, which he opened. Taking a gold locket suspended on a fine gold chain of peculiar workmanship, he gave it to Helen, still seated in her low chair in a dejected attitude.

"The is wours Helen, I have always believed."

dejected attitude.
"This is yours, Helen; I have always believed "This is yours, Helen; I have always believed it contains your mother's picture." He threw the chain over her neck; then, sitting down, he took the locket and pressed the spring that fastened it. It flew open. The miniature within was delicately painted on ivory, and was that of a young woman, very fair, with curling brown hair. There was no resemblance to Helen in the features, delicate and regular as they were.

semblance to Helen in the features, delicate and regular as they were.

"You must wear this at all times," said Dr. Merle, "for it may unexpectedly lead you to discovery. This was one of several little trinkets left in Margaret's care. She keeps the others for you; there is a wedding-ring with a date on it; a ruby and pearl brooch, and a jeweled watch. She shall deliver them to you; but this you must always wear."

this you must always wear."

Helen took the locket, closed it, and put it in her bosom.

"Now you must really go, my sweet child. I can not allow you to stay, for I want to see Ulric alone, and he will be here in an hour or

"Papa," said Helen, "I do not like that ric. There is something treacherous about

Ulric. There is something stem.
him."
"I do not think so, my dear child. He is rough and uncouth, but he has served me faithfully."

"th us six months. I am

afraid of him. Oh, papa, send him away!"

"Why? have you seen any thing in his conduct to make you suspicious, Helen?"

"Enough at all times. He watches you so. He is always examining your books when you are out."

"He is a student. I find him quick and obedient; trustworthy too, as far as I can see. Has he ever failed in respect to you, my child?"

"Oh, no, but he quarrels with Margaret. I have heard him speak savagely to her."

"She has only to tell me when he does so. I will reprove him. Try to bear with the rest, Helen. He is a valuable assistant. Now, good-night. To-morrow we will talk over our plans."

He laid his hands solemnly on her head and mentally invoked a blessing. Helen threw her arms round his neck, wishing him good-night, and obediently left the room.

To reach her own, she had to pass through that of Margaret, her former nurse and faithful attendant. Shading the lamp with her hand, the young girl stood a few moments gazing on the quiet sleeper, and in her heart she blessed her for her fidelity to her suffering mother. Then, entering her own room, she extinguished her light, and knelt long in fervent prayer before she sought her bed.

CHAPTER III. THE SPY.

For more than two hours Ulric rode on eastward, following the stranger, and now and then coming within sight, but keeping himself carefully out of view. The bank of the river, along which the narrow road led, was covered with wild oats, and at intervals were scattered tall and approaching live next trees luvuijant in

with wild oats, and at intervals were scattered tall and spreading live-oak trees, luxuriant in their dark and glossy verdure.

Now and then the rider skirted an extensive plain; a pasture in the rainy season for the wild cattle—the elk and deer of the primeval forests—which, in dry weather, seek the vicinity of the marshes of the lowlands.

Across the stream stretched vast fields, cultivated here and there, or green with the soft grass on which herds fed; behind them was the coest range like a continuous ledge of granite.

grass on which herds fed; behind them was the coast range, like a continuous ledge of granite, destitute of vegetation, with an occasional peak shooting above the gray battlements, on which the waning moon poured her tender light.

On the right, at length, they passed a fort, built of adobes or unburned brick. There was no light to indicate the presence of any living person; and not even the call of a sentinel was heard. Shortly afterward a spacious wheatfield spread out its luxuriant verdure, flanked by the ditches and embankments constructed to prevent the intrusion of cattle. Most of the country in this section was of agricultural value, and owned by rich proprietors. There was a ranche on the river-border, to which belonged an old ferry; and close to the water was a dilapidated tent, sheltered by a tree, one-half of which was scalled and withered by fire. of which was scathed and withered by fire. Still no one was visible; and the assistant of Dr. Merle began to wonder how much further

his pursuit was to continue.

All at once the rider turned into a lane on the left, closely shadowed by thick trees. A the left, closely shadowed by thick trees. A few rods further on a fence crossed the path, and bars were seen. The foremost equestrian dismounted to let them down. Ulric leaped from his horse; but did not attempt to lead him through the bars. He tied him securely to a strong oak sapling effectually concealed from the view of any passer, by and followed the the view of any passer-by, and followed the rider on foot more than half a mile. This was easy, as the horse went at a slow pace; and Ulric ventured nearer than he had yet dared to

Suddenly the horse stopped. The rider had

caught sight of him.
"Boy!" called out a clear, musical voice.
Ulric made no answer, but shrunk into the dark shadow of the bushes on the roadside. "Come out, boy, if you do not want to be fired upou!" cried the voice again. "What do you mean, skulking like that?"
Young Boyce stepped out into the faint moonlight. He had taken up his line of de-

"What are you doing here, child? Why do you muffle up your face in that manner? What are you afraid of?"

With a feeble whine, the supposed boy whimpered a petition for charity. "A beggar—in want of a lodging? Who are you, child?"

"A poor boy—from Sutter's fort last, sir."
"Where are you going? How far have you been following me?" 'Only from the road. I was looking for a shed, sir.

For what?" "To sleep in. I always sleep in sheds or

"And what do you do in the daytime, child?"
"I sing at the log-taverns or ferries, sir."
"Poor little fellow! Well, you may come with me. I will give you a place to sleep in."
He was evidently taken for a child from his low stature. Touching his cap with another whine of thankfulness, he pulled his cloak tightly round him, and followed close at the

About a third of a mile further on the lane About a third of a mile further on the lane terminated. A gate, made of tall, stout saplings, intercepted further progress. The rider sprung from the horse, and tapped lightly with the whip upon the rustic stockade. The gate was unfastened by some one within, and swung open noiselessly. The man bowed as he saw who had come, took the bridle of his horse, and made way for the rider to pass in.

"You may take care of this boy," said the

disguised lady. "He can have supper, and sleep is the kitchen."

She went on, and entered the house by a side-door. Ulric followed the man to the stables, where he cared for the horse, and then went into the kitchen. The house, it could be seen, was one of the better sort of dwellings attached to the ordinary farms of the country. It was built of hewn logs on a foundation of rough stones, but had two stories, and glazed windows of large size in each. The yard was extensive and shaded by stout old oaks; the outbuildings were substantial and neat. The man was manifestly, like Ulric, a half-breed of the Indian and Anglo-Saxon, so many of whom came from New Mexico. Slinging the saddle over his shoulder, he went from the stables to the house, bidding his companion to follow him.

"Who lives here?" asked Boyce, in his soft, light voice, anxious to obtain all the information he could, under cover of his supposed

Paul Sloman. Have you never heard of Never, sir!"

"You must be a stranger in these parts?"
"I have been here a very short time. Mr.
Sloman! Is he from the East?"
"No; he came from Louisiana."
"I the roune contlorme his son then?"

"Is the young gentleman his son, then?"
"Not exactly." The man laughed. "How inquisitive you are for a little shaver like you!
Come on; you want something to eat, I'll be

He led the way into a spacious kitchen. It was low-ceiled and unplastered; but had its dark-smoked rafters hung with dried fruits. More than one pair of deers' antlers projected from the walls, and they were loaded with articles of clothing. The broad shelves of a dresser were covered with household utensils of copper and tin, none of which evinced good housekeeping in careful scouring. A barrel and tap in one corner looked like a plentful supply of beer or cider. In a huge open chimney large logs were smoldering, and the shadows were partially dispelled by the ruddy glow of the coals. A heap of buffalo-skins in another corner was pleasantly suggestive of a good bed.

good bed.

The man lighted a tallow candle, and set out on the table some meat and bread, with a mug of foaming cider. "Fall to, youngster," he said, and Ulric waited no second invitation.

"Is that your manners, boy?" cried his entertainer, when he saw him eagerly devouring the good cheer without removing his cap or cloak. As he spoke, he snatched the first from his head and flung it on the floor.

As Ulric started up, and tried to recover his

As Ulric started up, and tried to recover his head-gear, his cloak fell from his shoulders.

"Hallo!" exclaimed the servant, stepping back in genuine surprise, then bursting into uproarious laughter. "It is not a boy, after all!"

Ulric's swarthy visage and masses of black hair made him appear older than he was in

hair made him appear older than he was in reality.

"A strolling beggar—singing for a living!" repeated the man. "Why, you might make a fortune exhibiting your bushy phiz and your squat broad stern for an overgrown cub, and the stock-in-trade wouldn't run out!" He laughed coarsely, and pushed the viands toward his guest, who had resumed his seat.

"You've a small voice for such broad shoulders!" he went on, while he shoveled the meat and bread down his own throat. "More cider, eh? Done supper? Well—it's late for a stroller, and you may turn in here." He threw open the door of a small room, a sort of pantry, beside the kitchen chimney. There was a straw pellet with a buffalo-skin, and another for covering.

pellet with a buffalo-skin, and another for covering.

Ulric went in and threw himself on the rude couch. It was not long before he knew, by the snoring of his companion, that he was fast asleep on the skins in the kitchen corner.

He had now discovered all he had been commissioned to ascertain, and it was his plain duty to return to Dr. Merle. He could easily get out through the kitchen unquestioned and unheard. The house was still: all were wrapped in slumber. He had only to steal out and climb over the stockade gate, if he could not get it open.

get it open.

But he had his own curiosity to gratify, and his own plans to accomplish. He thought of the doctor awaiting his return when sneer, and

the doctor awaiting his return with a sneer, and muttered a contemptuous execration as he remembered that he would no doubt catch a reprimand for disobedience.

Putting on his mantle and cap, he cautiously opened the door and entered the kitchen. The remains of the fire gave just light enough to see the way out; and the stentorian breathing of the serving-man showed that he would not be easily awakened.

On the other side of the kitchen a door opened upon a narrow stairway. Ultic lighted the

ed upon a narrow stairway. Ulric lighted the remnant of candle with a coal, and, shading it remant of candie with a coal, and, shading it so as not to awaken the sleeper, went up this ascent, closing the door carefully after him.

He came into a loft, where a number of barrels were standing. But in one corner was a narrow passage leading to another part of the house. He passed through this without hesitation. It was long, and seemed to extend the entire width of the house.

A door at the further and was closed, and

A door at the further end was closed, and there was a glimmer of light beyond. Ulric found that it was bolted on the other side; but found that it was bolted on the other side; but there was a crevice wide enough for the insertion of a bit of stiff wire taken from his pocket, by which the bolt could be slid back. Before he ventured on this, he extinguished his candle. There was a light rustling of garments, and through the slip he saw a woman's figure in a white night-dress, carrying a small lamp. It passed out of the room; and then the intruder boldly slipped the bolt and went in.

It was a large room, unfurnished with bed or curtains; apparently a mere ante-chamber.

ourtains; apparently a mere ante-chamber. Ulric followed the receding figure into the ad-

oining apartment. This was a bed-chamber luxuriously furnished. A large bedstead of black walnut, with high posts, was hung with curtains of white dimity fringed with blue; the window-hangings were to correspond. A toilet table draped with white profile covered with processing the correspond. with white muslin, covered with essences, brushes, etc., stood under an oval mirror framed in clustering folds of rose-colored and white drapery. Two lighted wax candles were on the table, and two easy-chairs stood near, in one of which a female figure was reclining. It was not the one who had been bearing the lamp. She had gone into another room, communicating with this by folding-doors, that stood partly open.

Ukric dared not advance: and from the spot where he stood he could be readily seen by any one coming from the interior room.

Quickly he glided behind the hangings of the bed, slid under it, and then drew himself noise-lessly over the soft velvet carpet to the foot. Here he had every advantage of observation.

He could see a bed in an inner room, with large white ruffled pillows, and counterpane of silk patchwork. He could see a small stand, covered with vials and glasses, near the head of the bed, and the outline of a face framed in incongray hair nels almost as the sheet that iron-gray hair, pale almost as the sheet that covered the invalid's form. The face was that of a man, strongly lined, and wasted by illness. The white-robed figure Ulric had seen carry-

ing the lamp came out with it in her hand, and placed it on the toilet-table. At the same time she whispered to the lady seated in the easy chair, who immediately changed her position, so as to be out of the view of any one in the sick man's room. This brought her yet nearer to the bed under which the spy was concealed. He had now a full view of the lady, whose

voice, when she spoke to her attendant, he re-cognized as that of the rider who had given him in charge to the man-servant. She had thrown off her disgnise, boots and all, and sat robed in a loose cashmere dressing gown, white bordered with crimson. She seemed in the early prime of life, perhaps from thirty to thirty-five years of age, looking much older than in her masculine attire. Her features were regular and aquiline in ontline; her complexion was dark olive; her cheeks were flushed with a rich

color; her purplish black hair was uncoiled, and hung loosely over her shoulders. The feature that inspired most awe and admiration was her eyes. They were really wonderful eyes; long, large, black as midnight, and shaded by thick, dark lashes. When she unclosed them, it was as if a flash of sunlight had broken from a cloud; and it was a relief when the heavy lids again drooped over them.

"You have not given him the medicine," she said to the other woman, after she had moved her seat.

her seat.
"It is not time; it is yet an hour before the

medicine was to be given," was the low-toned answer. "What you brought is on the stand," "I wonder if its effects would be speedy," muttered the lady, speaking to herself. "Thirty drops, the old charl said! Did you prepare the night drink, Louise?"

night drink, Louise?"

"Certainly, madam, as you directed."

"There would have been no hurry, if the old quack had not found me out!" exclaimed the lady, musingly. "Now I dare not risk any thing! It would not do to have a stir made, even if I were away."

"She is thinking of the medicine my master gave her," muttered the intruder. "I wonder iffunder was intended, as he thought?" Suddenly the lady started from her reclining

Suddenly the lady started from her reclining Louise! Louise! I am tired of this!" she

"Louise! Louise! I am tired of this!" she exclaimed.

"You have had a long ride, madam. You had better take your tea and go to bed."

"I don't mean the journey! I am tired of this kind of life! They all work too slowly! I mean to change every thing! Poverty and all that does not suit me. If I could go to the city and send out the papers myself! I must do something! If I can not raise money, I shall go to the mountains. You must have every thing packed to-morrow, so that I may start, should it be necessary, at a moment's notice. I have sent for Incredos to meet me to-morrow morning." She spoke all this rapidly, in an undertone.

"Hush!" whispered Louise. "Did not master speak? I thought I heard him say 'Olivia." Both started to their feet.

"Paul did not speak!" said the lady, who had flung back her hair to listen intently.
She paced the room two or three times; then stood looking at her own reflection in the mir-

She paced the room two or three times; then stood looking at her own reflection in the mir-

"Louise," she said, laughingly, "by this time next year you may see me wearing a

Madam ?" "Yes—the crown of beauty, fashion and wealth! That is Olivia's ambition! The plot weatth! That is Olivia's ambition! The plot is maturing; though so slowly, ah me! As soon as it is ripe, I shall enter on my kingdom. I shall be the mistress of a quarter of San Francisco! Don't stare at me in that stupid way! Do you think me a dreamer?"

"No, madam; but you may be too sanguine."

"Pshaw! I should have realized a fortune already, had I been free! But a married woman is so dreadfully hampered! She can not sign a deed herself. Her husband's name must go to every thing: and Paul is so scrupulous! What

every thing; and Paul is so scrupulous! What do you mean?"

do you mean?"

Louise was making earnest gestures, imploring silence. Her mistress came close to the bed, and listened again.

"No, I tell you, Paul did not speak. But I thought I heard some one breathing close by."

The situation of the spy became critical. What way of escape should he take in case of discovery? To go back by the rooms he had passed through, would be difficult in the dark; and an alarm would rouse the man in the kitchen, to intercept his flight. He had heard the grating of tree boughs against a window of the interior room, and a bold thought occurred to him.

Both the women were listening.

Both the women were listening.
The mistress whispered:
"Get me the pistol from the bureau drawer.
I think some one is under the bed!"
"Oh, madam, it can not be! How could any
one get there?"
"Give it me! I will kill any one who dares
spy on me! Quick. I hear breathing distinctly!"

Louise opened the drawer. There was not an instant to lose.

Wrapping his cloak about him, Ulrie sprung from his place of concealment, dashed past the lady, and into the invalid's room. He caught one glimpse of the pallid face lifted in alarm from the pillow, and a pair of terrified eyes laring at him as he rushed past the bed, over

turning the stand on which the medicines stood, as he made for the window. To push the casement wide open, to leap out, seizing the bough of oak that stretched across the window, and swing himself to the ground, was the work of a single moment. In two or three more the fugitive had cleared

the gate, and was flying along the lane toward the well-remembered spot where he had tied his horse. He unfastened the halter, leaped on lid. the animal's back, and fied homeward like the wind.

(To be continued.)

Cat and Tiger:

THE STAR OF DIAMONDS. A ROMANCE OF LOVE AND MYSTERY.

BY A. P. MORRIS, JR., AUTHOR OF "IRON AND GOLD," "FEED SCORPION,"
"PEARL OF PEARLS," "HERCULES, THE HUNCH-BACK," "FLAMING TALISMAN," "BLACK
CRESCENT," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER III. THE STAR OF DIAMONDS.

ADJOINING the house in which lived Helene Cercy, was a residence of less attractive exterior. It had long been a subject of curiosity among those residing in the immediate vi-cinity, and the cause of this we will explain

It had been just fifteen years since Helene Cercy purchased the handsome edifice in which she lived.

Three months subsequent to the purchase, the house next to it-the one of which we are speaking—was rented by two females, who had with them a girl-child not more than five years of age-apparently mother, daughter and servant. After renting the house, and furnishing

it, the trio retired to utter seclusion. No one was ever seen to issue from the building, except the servant, who, at regular intervals, procured provisions from the near-

Six months later, the house was bought at an enormous price, by those occupying it; and then there appeared a silver plate on the front door, bearing in German text, the name:

For ten years, gossip waxed strong, and surmise was at fault; for no one had been able to make the acquaintance of these strange people who published their name as Then a funeral occurred at this mysterious

"CAOLO."

place-precisely ten years from the date of their moving in. But, even on this occasion, the inquisitive were baffled; for no one, save the doctor and clergyman officiating, were admitted— and the latter personage disappeared when

The doctor had been noticed during several visits which he made, prior to the appearance of crape on the bell-knob.

his duties were performed.

As a consequence, the physician was be-sieged. But, here the anxious ones met another defeat, for the medical worthy was not communicative even with those entitled to the highest consideration, and some of

whom were among his own patients.

The people in the neighborhood never once slackened their zeal of wonderment; and this received a fresh impetus, when, a week or so after the singular funeral, a large, muscular negro, black as night, and well dressed, was observed on the steps, having just come out, and who presently, moved leisurely off down the street.

This negro was seen frequently entering

This negro was seen frequently entering and emerging at the front door, adding, by his presence and actions, to the prevailing mystification, until parties were heard to ex-

"Caolo! Caolo! Who are these Caolos? Where did they come from? What are they doing here? Why do they exile themselves? What does their strange seclusion portend? Can we not get at them, and bring them out of their hole?" Thus matters stood, fifteen years after the

first occupancy of the house by these people named Caolo—lacking three months.

And we call the reader's attention to those who lived there, on this night of storm, when our story opens, five years after the funeral aforementioned.

In the second-story front room, seated in a large, comfortable, oddly-finished chair, was a girl of about twenty years.

Her eyes were large, dark, lustrous; her face oval, and colored in beauty. Her form was lovely as her face—the neck and arms displayed by a low-cut, short-sleeved suit of black; and over shoulders of extraordinary

black; and over shoulders of extraordinary purity fell masses of glossy black hair.
The apartment was furnished costily, and

the girl seemed a queen in a sphere of her own creation. Leaning against the mantelpiece, was a woman quite advanced in years; for her hair was gray, and her face and form had perceptibly lost their roundness. She was

silent, and watching her young companion.
The girl was, just then, looking at the dial of a watch which she held in one hand -her eyes seemingly closed beneath the drooping, silken lashes of jet. "Zetta, it is time Gaeol were here. What can keep him?"

"The storm, perhaps," returned the wo-"Ah! yes, it is a terrible storm. Hear the thunder.

After a pause, the young girl asked: "Are you sure Gaeol can not be mistaken?"
"Yes, mistress."

"He has, truly, seen the diamonds?" "He has seen the diamonds—seen the star for which you have searched so long, and for which your mother wept so, ere she died. "Do not speak of my mother again,

Zetta; you make me sad. I have enough to make me remember her, without—the oath I uttered at her deathbed, when I was fifteen years old. But, of the star of dia-monds? How does Gaeol know but that this is only a chance representation of what we are seeking?"

"There can be no doubt, mistress. Gaeol knows, too, who sold the star to the pawn-broker." broker."
"Who was it?" "Cortez Mendoze."

"Ah! that Cortez Mendoze!"
"He sold it for \$500." "And I am giving \$1500.
"Is it not worth that to Zuelo Nanez?"
"Yes, it is worth twice as much to me. Hark! I thought I heard a step.'
"It is Gaeol."

A heavy footfall was heard on the stairs; and, in a few moments, a huge African entered the room, glancing from one to the

"Gaeol!" cried the girl, "have you brought it?" Yes; it is here," answered the comer, in a deep, guttural voice; and, as he spoke, he laid a small square ebon box in her lap. With a quick motion she removed the

"See, Zetta!—see! How beautiful!"
"I have seen it before, mistress."
"But I never have. Nor did I ever behold so many jewels in such splendor.
Look!"

She held up in the light of the roomglistening, scintillating, reflecting in mag-nificence—a perfect star, wrought of diamonds and gold wire woven and intermin-gled in a dazzling luster.

At sight of it Zetta shuddered, and halfaverted her face. Gaeol, standing to one side—with muscular arms folded across his massive breastlooked on with the face of a stoic.

"Put it away," advised Zetta.
"Put it away," repeated Zuelo; "why?
I must look at it first. I want to see this star of diamonds, that my mother, that you and Gaeol, and I—all have hunted for so diligently during fifteen years. Even while I was yet a child, I remember my mother used to tell me that, if I ontlived her, I must find this star of diamonds. I have never seen it until now, and I am curious.

"Mistress Zuelo," said the serving-woman,

mysteriously, "though I am glad you have found this star, I am sorry too." "Sorry, Zetta? How you talk! What "Better not to have found it, after all," put in Gaeol, in his deep, impressive ac-

cent.
"Tell me what you mean?" demanded Zuelo, addressing both, but in the same breath, she exclaimed:
"Ah, see this! Here is a name, Zetta! There is a name on the back of the star—
'Carline Mandoro!'"

Again Zetta shuddered. Gaeol moved "Put it away, Zuelo—"
"No—come here to me. Tell me why you shuddered when I spoke that name Why do you wish me to put away the star?

"Mistress"—Zetta advanced to her side, very solemnly, "it is better not to gaze on the thing too much. Let me beg of you put

"Not till you explain to me why you shuddered. Who is Carline Mandoro? Why is her name on the back of this star, when I was given to understand that it was always the property of my mother?" Zetta appeared to be very uneasy, and

made a motion as if to thrust the star into But Zuelo Nanez was not to be put off in this way.

"Zetia, I command you to tell me why you are so worked upon by this jewel!

"Mistress, it is dangerous to possess it—dangerous even to look at it."

The voice of the serving-woman was unsteady, and there was a pained expression in her face. Dangerous to possess? Pouf!

"Ay, but it is so, mistress."
"Yes," inserted the African, bluntly, "it But, why is it dangerous? Tell me

"It has always been fatal to the one holding it, my mistress; and I wondered, while I dared not protest, that your mother should wish you to find it and keep it." "But, had my mother lived, she would have found it, and kept it?"

"True—she would," admitted Zetta; but it is a fatal possession, my mistress, believe me. It has always brought trouble to its possessor."

Death sometimes," supplemented Gaeol. For a third time, a trembling shiver crept Put it away. Let me keep it. I will

hide it; and then, perhaps, Zuelo Nanez may be saved from its evil spells."

"Evil spells? You talk like a crazy woman! No; I will keep it. Spells? Ha! ha! I am not so superstitious. But, tell me—who is, or was, Carline Mandoro?"

After hesitating a moment, Zotte citle.

After hesitating a moment, Zetta said: "She was one of those who died because of possessing the jewel."
"So, Carline Mandoro, at one time, held

this star of diamonds? "Do you mean to say that it caused her

"How did she die ?--in a fit? Was she drowned?—poisoned—?"
"She fell by the hand of an assassin, mis-

tress-she was stabbed. The interruption came tremulously, and

Zetta made another attempt to thrust the star into the box. Zuelo herself could not prevent the chilly sensation which passed over her at the announcement. But she said, presently:
"Tell me more of this Carline Mandoro."

"We know no more," came quickly from the African.
"That is a falsehood! You are hiding

something from me. Come, speak out. You are both sworn, of your own free will, to be faithful to me, and do my bidding. I command you to tell me more about this star-its history. And tell me, too, who

At that juncture the fancy clock on the mantelpiece struck the half-hour after ten. Gaeol pointed toward it, and looked at his young inistress, while he said:
"The time is sounding. See — Zuelo
Nanez must not forget her duty. The

Green Shadow." Without a word, Zuelo arose and hurried

from the room. But she carried the star of diamonds with her, despite the protesta-tions of her serving-woman.

"It will be the death of Zuelo Nanez, as it was of others before her," Zetta said, slow and thoughtfully, and gazing toward the door through which her mistress had

Yes, it is a cursed talisman of evil, wrought by the prompting of Satan," added Gaeol, also looking in the direction of the

CHAPTER IV. MET AND MATCHED.

As Cortez Mendoze uttered the words signifying that he had not come upon an idle mission, he eyed Helene Cercy keenly, with a look of confidence in his dark face and a grim smile wreathing the corners of the mouth beneath his long mustache. "Cortez Mendoze, you are a brave man,"

she said, at length. Do you know what danger you are in?"

"Danger?" he repeated, elevating his brows, and molding his lips to a circle.

"Yes, danger. Your life is threatened."

"Malediction! No?"

Ay, but you shall see, if you disregard what I say. And what is that?"

"Begone, instantly."
"Ho! Begone, eh?"
"Go, sir, before you feel my claws—" The claws of a cat!"

"No matter. Go, now. 'Bah!" he growled, shifting his position, "I am here on business-not to run away again. I am no fool."
"Beware!" There was a strange light

burning in the dark orbs that were fastened Beware! Of what?"

"Of me, Cortez Mendoze."
"Of you! Hunh! I do not fear you nor any thing.'

"Nothing?"
"Malediction! Nothing." "Not even the ghost of Carline Mando-

"Caramba!" he shouted, half-starting up. "Aha! you fear nothing, I see!—not even the ghost of Carline Mandoro. Ha! ha! ha!" and she laughed, mockingly, leveling a forefinger at him. Spaniard clenched his teeth and

glared fiercely upon her.

"Leave off!" he hissed.

"I shall not. You fear the ghost of Carline Mandoro—it is plain; and why should you not? Ha! h—a! But, mark: you shall fear me far more than you fear the spirit of the dead. Do you hear? Begone,

No-malediction!" he snarled, striking his knee with his fist, "I will not go" stri-king the other knee with the other fist. until I make you understand that I do

not fear ghost nor human !"
Then, beating on both knees, with both fists, after the manner of a pair of drum-sticks, while he leaned slightly forward, and spoke, with inconceivable rapidity:

"I am Cortez Mendoze. I fear nobody, nor any thing. I am here for your answer —malediction!—after fifteen years. You have not escaped me. You had best not try to do so again. You thought me dead. But, I am alive—earamba! yes, I am alive! I want your answer. Be quick! Maledic-I am Cortez Mendoze!

tion! I am Cortez Mendoze!—beware!"
Beware, Cortez Mendoze!—beware!" came rustling peculiarly from the tongue's end of the beauty.
"I will not! Your answer, Madame

Helene Cercy — your decision, between three things, in my favor: first, your hand

Preposterous!" "Or half your fortune-" "Never!

"Then, the Star of Diamonds! Ha! Where is the Star of Diamonds? Can you tell me that, Madame Helene Cercy?" "I can not. The Star was stolen from me fifteen years ago. But, ere this, the

one who was the thief has died. The star has always proven fatal to the possessor, if there was any truth in the story you told

me, over fifteen years ago."
"Not so!" he said, quickly.
"Not so?"

"I know of one who had that star during nearly all the last fifteen years. And he is alive! Malediction!" "Then you know where the star is to be found?"

"No matter. I know that you speak the truth, when you say that you have not got it. Next: your fortune—"
"You shall have none of it!" defiantly."

"You shall have none of it!" defantly.
"Ho! it is you who are brave now"—
smiling in his grim, ironical way; "you are
defying Cortez Mendoze. Do you not fear
Cortez Mendoze? It is my turn, now, to
say 'beware!" Beware how you trifle with
Cortez Mendoze! I know how to deal with
you, I think; though I was deceived in you
fifteen years ago."

fifteen years ago."
"Take care!—take care!" panted Helene,
while her jeweled fingers worked nervously, and she seemed about to spring upon

him.

"'Take care' yourself!" he retorted.

"The Star of Diamonds is lost. You will not give me half your fortune. So. Now then, the last alternative: your hand in marriage.

would as soon wed a viper!" "Then there would be two serpents in the nest! Malediction! You are a scratch-But, you are a beautiful woman; you have money; you must be the wife of Cortez Mendoze! You dare not refuse!"
"No!" she cried, "but I may escape you.
Take this!" and with the words, she snatch-

ed a dagger from her bosom, and sprung forward with the blade glittering aloft— her face glowing, and the large, dark eyes afire with the emotions of hate

But, with lightning quickness, the Spaniard drew a revolver from his pocket, and leveled it at the heart of the angry

She halted before the muzzle, and her features paled, for she saw that the weapon was cocked and ready, and only a slight pressure of the finger was necessary to de-

pressure of the finger was necessary to deprive her of life.

"Halt, there!" he snapped, sharply.

"You would kill me, eh? Come one step more, and I shall fire! See—I am prepared! I have a pistol!—Malediction! I have two pistols! Keep off, now," and from another pocket he produced another pistol, "covering" her completely, while he settled back in his chair, with a broad, triumphant or in.

Grinding her white teeth together, Helene Cercy shrunk before the frowning deadly tubes, and restored the gleaming dagger to its concealment in her bosom. she did not drop her gaze, and the blood remounted to her cheeks, in a fresh anger at her defeat.

Cortez slipped away his weapons, but he kept a wary watch on Helene's movements now, for he saw that she was armed, and he knew her nature well enough to expect in-jury at her hands the very moment oppor-

"Now we will go back to our beef! Curamba! if you try that trick again, there will be somebody shot! Come—your fortune, or your hand. Decide, as you promised Correz Mendoze you would, a little more than fifteen years ago." Helene soon recovered from the chagrin

attending the defeat of her evil purpose; and with the recovery the spirit of defiance 'You shall have neither!" she cried.

"and you may do your worst! If you think Helene Cercy fears you—wretch!—you are mistaken. O-h!" in a half-frenzied tone—"give me but one chance, Cortez Mendoze, and I will rid the world of a vil-"Malediction! you tigress! That villain is Cortez Mendoze, I suppose?"

She made no return. "But, look now," he went on, "what if I were to kill you, this minute, eh, to save

"Go on! go on!" patting the carpet with one foot, straightening those bare, white arms, as she clenched her fists, and breathing hard and fast through her dilating nostrils; "go on, sir! You have pistols, and an advantage. Give me one pistol, and fight me fairly, if you dare—here, in this

'Malediction! Catch me at it! You would put a bullet in my back! of that. You are not shrewd enough to beat Cortez Mendoze. But, enough. Come -you will not give me half your fortune,

eh? You will not wed me, eh?"
"I would stab you at the altar!"
"Caramba! No doubt of it, if you got the chance! But you shall do one of the two things. Hark: what if I call upon the police, and say to them: 'I can show you a woman that the authorities of New leans would be glad to get hold of? Why Because it was she who bribed the father of Wart Gomez to do that which brought a curse upon his family, and afterward sent her tool on a journey to his master, the devil! Ho! Would not that be a good denoument? Excellent! And I will do it!"

"Do it, then!" she defied. "Go and tell

your story. We shall fall together. For, ere the chains rattle on my wrists, I will say: 'Behold! there is Cortez Mendoze; he, too, has something to account for, in the city of New Orleans! Ask him if he knows aught of Carline Mandoro! Let him tell you who she was, and what to him, and what became of her! Ha! ha! ha! you see, it is share and share alike. What will Cortez Mendoze answer, after I have told all, when the authorities question him regarding Carline Mandoro?'

'Fiends devour Carline Mandoro !" bellowed Cortez, jumping from his chair. He strode restlessly to and fro, pulling savagely at the ends of his mustache. But he kept beyond the reach of Helene Cercy and watched her closely, notwithstanding his excited state of mind, for he saw that as he rose to his feet, the beauty's hand glided to her bosom, and he knew that she

was grasping the hilt of her sharp dagger.

As Cortez Mendoze started up, a vivid flash of lightning entered at the back window, half blinding them, followed by a terrific clap of thunder, that jarred the room. Involuntarily he stepped to this window,

to draw the curtains. 'Caramba! What a flash. Why do you not keep your windows darkened in a storm like this? You may defy Cortez Mendoze, but you can not defy the lightning. I—ha!"
He wheeled suddenly, as he detected the rustle of a dress and a quick step behind him.

And none too soon. With incredible swiftness Helene had bounded toward him, dagger in hand; and he was just in time to

grasp her wrist, and avert the deadly blow

she aimed at him.

Simultaneous with this tableau, a loud, long shriek of terror rung through the hall, and Eloise, her face white in fear, came A dozen steps, and she sunk to the floor

in a swoon.
"Malediction!" exclaimed Cortez, whose nerves rose on edge when the curdling scream penetrated his ears.

And then, as he glanced in the direction

of the doorway:
"Caramba! Look!"

For he saw there a strange, startling ap-A female form, robed from head to foot in slim garments of green; and over the garments waved long hair, still greener, which fell below the waist. There were

two glittering eyes fixed upon him, but the face had neither outline nor shape, being evidently covered by a skin of some kind, stained to a similar color with the clothes, and which hid the throat and bust. One second the fearful thing stood there; then, with a laugh that was frigid and wild,

A half-cry, half-howl, issued from the Spaniard's lips, and, casting off the grip Helene had fastened upon him, he dashed forward in pursuit of this human phantom, drawing a revolver at the same time.

As he passed beyond the doorway, something whizzed close to his ear. It was Helene's dagger. And she knew well how to throw the blade, for it only missed its mark by an inch, and buried its point, quivering,

CHAPTER V.

PEDRO GOMEZ, THE GARDENER.

We take the reader back a period of fif-teen years and a half, in order that we may bring out certain features and incidents that transpired at that time, which involve our characters already introduced, and which are materially essential to the proper devel-

opment of our plot.

Our story now goes to New Orleans, to a date just fifteen years and six months prior to the occurrences set forth in the preced-

It was a warm day, in the early spring that comes to the Crescent City. Situated on Esplanade street was a fine estate, the property of one Elsor Earncliffe, an American, who had resided there for many years, with no other family member than his child, whose name was Florose.

Florose was an acknowledged belle — eighteen years of age; a blonde; beautiful

Her greatest rival was a dark-eyed girl of about her own age, no less lovely, and whose name was Helene Cercy.

whose name was Helene Cercy.

Society was equally divided in admiration of the two rivals; and Florose, who was gentle and amiable, easily contented herself with her share of the praises that devotees continually poured upon her.

But in the nature of the young Helene there was a latent envy, a jealousy that grew stronger each day, and finally merged into a passionate hate, when one of her admirers—apparently detecting her feelings, and disgusted with this evidence of a desire to grasp all the laurels—deserted the stool to grasp all the laurels—deserted the stool on which he was wont to kneel in homage to the belle of the dark eyes and queenly

It was not the mere desertion which piqued Helene so sorely; but, at the next soiree, he was seen delighting himself in the merry voice, soft glances and pleasant

From that moment, Florose had a deadly enemy in the jealous Helene Cercy; and the latter vowed to strike venomously, both at the recreant-whose name was Dwyr Allison—and at the beautiful Florose, who, un-suspicious of danger, ever greeted her rival cordially; and more, still held the handsome

Dwyr Allison a captive.

But Helene Cercy's hate, already dire enough, was undoubtedly augmented by the news—which her maid brought to her one day-that Dwyr Allison and Florose were

And it was true. From an admirer, the young man had become a lover. tachment was mutual; for, when he pro-posed she accepted him, and now they were happy in the mingling of their affection and

he prospect of an early marriage fete.

It was noticed that Helene had lost much of her vivaciousness. She seldom laughed, as seldom even smiled, and if either, it was For now, when she saw Dwyr Allison the afflanced husband of Florose, she discov-

ered that she had loved the man, loved him still, and wished him once more at her With the combined feelings of love, hate and regret gnawing in her bosom, she cared little or nothing about the dazzle and glare

of reception-halls, or for the throng that flattered her wherever she went. Two things were constantly uppermost in her mind: her love for Dywr, and her

Such was the condition of affairs when we ask the reader's attention in this quarter at a date fifteen years and six months before the opening of our story, on the stormy night in Philadelphia.

On this bright, sunny day, Pedro Gomez, the gardener who had charge of the floral and shade grounds surrounding the resi dence of Elsor Earncliffe, was hard at work with his spade, and giving orders to three men who were under him in the management of the place.

While he worked, he hummed a Spanish love-song, and seemed very well contented with the fact that he was nobody but Pedro Gomez, the poor gardener.

While he hummed and worked and gave his orders, he did not observe that a woman had approached the iron railing, and was gazing in at him through the bronzed bars. She was very dark of feature, with a Gipsy cast of countenance. Her eyes were brilliant and piercing in their glance. Over her shoulders and form draped a black cape of light fabric, trimmed with red, and sur-mounted by a hood—and in the hood a keen eye could have detected the hiding of great masses of rich hair. Around her bare, dark-hued arms were clasped fantastic bracelets; and in her chemisette she wore a pin of steel beads that glittered with

wonderful brightness. For a long time she had been watching the movements of Pedro; and presently she called to him:
"Hey there, Pedro Gomez!"

"'Hey,' yourself," he answered, looking

up.
"It's a grand day for the flowers you are "So it is;" adding, a little gruffly, "but read with immense satisfaction.

what matters it to you-old Gipsy? What what matters it to you—old Gipsy? What difference can it make to you whether it rains or shines? I warrant your pockets are full of money, from telling fortunes; and when we have money to think of, we have no thought for Nature."

"But I have no money and I am fond of

'But I have no money, and I am fond of flowers, else I had not stopped to look at them, and to think how well you have made them grow."

"Take your fill of looking, then, and pass on," he said, though he spoke less harsh, for her compliment pleased him.
"Pedro Gomez, I say!" she called out a

second time, after remaining silent a few moments. "Say on, then. What is it this time? Do you not see that I am busy?"
"But I want one of those flowers that you are digging at. See—that rose with a

pretty yellow tinge, and a bud beneath it. Bring it to me, if you will—and here is a golden dollar for it."

golden dollar for it."

"A golden dollar!" exclaimed Pedro, inwardly. "This is some crazy woman! A gold dollar for a rose!" Then aloud:

"You shall have the rose, and I will get my When he had plucked the rose, and re-

ceived the money, he would have returned at once to his labor. But the woman reached through the bars and caught hold of his "Stay, Pedro; I have something to say

to you."
"What can it be? Quick, then; for I

"What can it be? Quick, then; for I am paid to work, and not to idle."

"And you are poorly paid, at that."

"It is no business of yours how much—"

"But, what if you could earn more money in less time?"

"What do you mean, Gipsy?"

"Would it not be a good thing, if you

could earn in one day more than you can get with your spade in five years?"

"Ho! what a question. A fool would know enough to say 'yes' to that!"

"And you can do it, Pedro Gomez."

"What riddle are you poking at me? How can it be possible for Pedro Gomez to make more in one day than he is now making in five years?"

"By performing a task that I can tell you of." "Oh, you can tell me of it?"
"Yes. Do not talk so loud."

"She is certainly a crazy woman!" he resolved, mentally; then asked: "What is this task?"

"A service."

"Eh? The task is a service! I am to do a service. For whom?"

"For my mistress. And when it is done, she will pay you in glittering gold."

"If she is a crazy woman, she knows well how to tempt me!" Pedro thought.

"I think that Pedro Gomez is the man my mistress wants," continued the strange woman. "If you will serve her, she will reward you well."

"I will serve," Gomez said, while he was wondering what it could be that this singular-spoken female desired to have him do.

"Put away your spade, then, and come with me."

Go with you?"

"How far? Now, there may be some trick in this," and he eyed her suspiciously.
"There is no trick. Do you see that high roof, above the others, some blocks from here?—there, over this way."

"Come with me to that house, and I will talk to you,"

Gomez did not hesitate long. Giving some instructions to his men, he arranged his coat-sleeves so as to hide the dirt on his brawny arms, and went out at the gate

Joining the woman, the two moved away, side by side, in silence.

Arriving at the house, they entered by a back door, and she led the way up-stairs, to one of the rooms in the second-story.

"Wait here till I return," she said, immediately leaving him alone. Pedro was astonished.

Seating himself in one of the soft chairs, he surveyed the apartment.

Costly furniture with gilt cord fringing; long, crested mirrors; rich tapestries; carpet in which the feet sunk deeply at every step; and at one side was a unique table, containing a small desk wrought of ebony, with pearl-mosaic finish. All these told that he was in the house of a very wealthy personage; and this, coupled with the mysterious circumstances which brought him there, increased his wonderment to a

nitch of uneasiness. He became restless; he fidgeted about on the chair; finally, he burst forth, half-

"Who is this Gipsy woman? — if she is a Gipsy woman? Who is her mistress? if she has a mistress. And what can her mistress want with Pedro Gomez? How did she know my name? That is a ques tion, too. Whose house am I in? It is no place for Pedro Gomez, the gardener. I shall be discovered by some of the servants, presently; and they will first break my head, then pitch me into the gutter! How long am I to sit here on this thing called a chair? A chair?—it is more like a mushpan to Pedro Gomez! Will she never come, and tell me what is wanted by that mistress of hers?—whoever she may be. That, too, is a question. Ha!—there's a step. Now, then, to see this grand lady, who will tell me how to earn more money in one day than I can get with my spade in five years! Ho! it is not possible! But, she is coming—I hear her step

(To be continued - Commenced in No. 145.) We give, in this week's issue, the opening

THE BEAUTIFUL FORGER;

The Adventures of a Young Girl. BY MRS. E. R. ELLETT,

AUTHOR OF MADALEINE'S MARRIAGE, ETC., ETC. The Beautiful Forger is a woman, remarkable in many respects. She is bad and good; she is implacable in her ambition yet terribly true in her loves; she is daring, reckless and unprincipled, but bends like a lily before her own heart-struggles.

The Young Girl involved in the net which others have woven, is the very contrast in character and temper with the fierce Mistress of the Ranche, and the young man who becomes this girl's guardian and champion stands out in the drama like an Ajax.

All is so well knit in plot and incident, and

THE NEWSBOY.

BY J. G. MANLY, JR.

Boots on his feet, a doubtful fit,
Pleasant for him if too old for you!—
Do not call him "a worthless chit"
Because in the haunts of sin he grew. From a baby cradled in sin and shame Down in an alley damp and drear, Till to the better life he came, None had dropped for his lot a tear.

None had dropped for his fot a text.

Suffring is stamped on his youthful face,
But shines there nothing in those blue eyes
To tell he is won from the Arab race,
That at night in the alley or hovel lies?

Hark how the tones of the full shrill voice
Out on the air their burden pour;
Life of a newsboy!—'tis his choice,
Only wished he'd "been one afore."

And, as you turn in the jostling throng, Hearing the words of the passer ring, Cheery and bearty, and though not loud, Clear as the song of the birds that sing You catch with your chance inquiring look
A glimpse of the deep blue honest eyes;
And think of a lonely churchyard nook
Where cradled in dust serenely lies
The darling boy who had just such eyes—
Tender, o'erbrimming with trustful light,
And your check is wet with the teardrop bright.

Newsboy, live with an honest heart!

Persevere! From your lowly lot
You may leap to a higher steep—
You may stand where the poor are not.

And if thou dost, and the gift of gold Is given thee by the Lord on high. Thy hands of power and wealth unfold, And lend an ear when the needy sigh.

Short Stories from History.

Old Legends of the New World .- To the first settlers in Greenland-referred the first settlers in Greenland—referred to in our last issue—is ascribed the honor of really having first colonized America. The adventures of these early colonists, as detailed in eight long chapters of an old Icelandic saga, have formed the subject of many learned books in modern times, of which the most remarkable is the "Antiquitates Americane"—a sumptuous folio published by Prof. Rafn for the Society of Northern Antiquaries. The story may be very shortly summarized. In the voyage Northern Antiquaries. The story may be very shortly summarized. In the voyage to Greenland, a ship's crew had noticed land to the south-west, which some of the colonists determined to explore. Starting from Baffin's Bay, they soon came to an island bare of all vegetation; "and there were great snow-mountains up the country," but all between them and the shorter try; but all between them and the shore was a flat field of snow, and it seemed a worthless place." This they named Helluland, or Flat Country; and little interest could ever have been excited by the discov-ery, if the modern savans had not chosen to include in its boundaries all that is now Labrador and Newfoundland; and this

Labrador and Newfoundland; and this seems the more absurd when we consider that the Labrador coast includes the grassy slopes of Hamilton Inlet, and the larch-covered hills of Sandwich Bay, which bloom like a garden in the summer months.

The voyagers (to return to the ancient story) sailed on for three days, and arrived at a flat, well-wooded coast, which they named Markland: "the shore for a great distance was formed of a white sand, sloping gently from the sea." This country has been identified with the whole of Nova Scotia, in order that the Norsemen may have the credit of having seen as much of have the credit of having seen as much of America as possible in the time of their visit. Then sailing south-west for two days, with a fair wind, they are said to have reached a coast trending east and west, and, passing between an island and a projecting headland, to have run up a river with great shoals at its mouth. "They towed the ship up the river and into a lake, where they anchored, and set up their tents on the land. They resolved to winter there, and build a great house. There were plenty of salmon in the rive larger than any which they had seen before. This country appeared so good to them that they thought it needless to gather food for the cattle in the winter; and during the winter there was no frost, and the

One day a German who was one of their crew found grapes growing wild in the woods, which caused the new country to be named Vineland the Fair. "And it is said woods, which caused the new country to be named Vineland the Fair. "And it is said that when they returned, their boat was fill-ed with grapes, and they cut a cargo of wood for their ship; there was also selfsown wheat in the plains, and a tree which they call Massur (supposed to be the maple): of all these they took samples; and some of the trees were so large as to be used some of the trees were so large as to be used in building houses." These latter words point rather to the small larch and spruce of Labrador than to the Canadian forests; but some parts of the description appear to agree with the account given by the early settlers of the shores of the St. Lawrence. "The river," says a traveler of the sixteenth century, "has many little islands, and is amazingly full of fish; the country pleasant and indifferently fertile, especially to the north west where unward from the to the north-west, where, upward from the river, the ground rises into little hills, invested, most of them, with vines, with which the country abounds; and in the plains is very fruitful of corn and all kinds of grain.

ss was hardly withered."

Without attempting to account for all the fanciful details of the Icelandic story, which was apparently written in its present shape, about four hundred years after the event, we may confess that there is some ground for the belief that the grapes and corn were actually seen by the Green-land sailors. Snorro Sturleson, the great historian, speaks of a very ancient tradition that a mission was sent, about the year 1006, to introduce Christianity into the new settlement in Greenland, and that the missionaries' ship was driven from her course to a new land in the south. "Leif went to Greenland in the summer. In the sea he saved a crew clinging to a wreck; he also found Vineland the Fair, and arrived about harvest-time in Greenland with the priest and teachers;" and there is a piece of re-markable evidence which goes far to prove the truth of the main point in the story. Adam of Bremen, who wrote in the eleventh century a work upon the geography of the North, cited the personal statement of Sweyn the Second, King of Denmark, that certain of his sailors had found a land in the West where self-sown vines and corn had been found growing in per-fection; and from these short notices of the traditionary fact, it is very possible that the latter stories, with their fanciful and minute details, were afterward elaborated. It is not necessary to examine these details minutely, unless we approach their study with the faith or credulity of a great professor, who tells us that "the party sent out in the year 1006 to explore the southern coast, probably examined the shores of Connecticut, New York, Delaware and Maryland; and their account of these coasts is quite correct.'



NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 29, 1873.

ian subscribers will have to pay 20 cents extra, to prepay cations, subscriptions, and letters on business be addressed to
BEADLE AND ADAMS, Publishers,
98 William St., New York.

NEXT WEEK,

Mr. Bartley T. Campbell's New Story, THE RED QUEEN.

A Romance of Old Fort Du Quesne.

It is, we need hardly say, exceedingly "telling" and dramatic in action, and wonderfully

interesting in story.

Mr. Campbell's "In the Web," "Laura's Peril," etc., will be remembered by our readers as serials of great beauty and power. In this new work Mr. C. enters a somewhat new field-that of wilderness life. Thoroughly 'up" in the local history of the region of old Fort Des Moines, he writes of the days when Washington was a Captain in the English Colonial Army, with a spirit which shows how much he is "at home," in Indian and Border delineations. The "Queen" is a character that will not be likely to be forgotten Let all read the beautiful story.

Our Arm-Chair.

"Old Probabilities."-One of our correspondents, disgusted with the weather clerk's "deal" of days which bring the Frigid Zone so uncomfortably near to our Firesides, this winter, writes: "I have been thinking of writing a letter to "Old Probabilities." He seems to have such admirable control over the weather that he might be persuaded to give us about ten dollars' worth of sunshine during February-let the Great Bear be the Morning Star until May, with a total eclipse of snow-clouds: a fine meteoric display after church, and only one more ice gorge, simply

We have undoubtedly had a very "hard" winter, but it has, on the whole, been a very bearable one. Nature recuperates, sometimes by very severe processes, and the exhausted moisture in the hills and the dry fountains in the valleys are to be restored by this avalanche of snow and ice. Intense cold, too, is very purifying to the air, and, though we may have growled and shivered at the weather, it has been, nevertheless, very beneficial, in a sanitary way. We know that certain scientists believe the earth itself is undergoing a change that portends great and serious changes, but, we think, careful observations will show that our seasons run in cycles of about seventeen years, and that the averages of heat and cold will be the same in any given

In some districts or belts of country changes have occurred which seem permanent in their character. For instance: two thousand years ago the climate of Italy was far colder than now. The Loire and Rhone, in ancient Gaul. used to freeze over annually. Juvenal says the Tiber froze so firmly in his day the ice had to be cut to get at the water. Horace indicates the presence of ice and snow in the streets of Rome, and Ovid asserts the Black Sea froze over every year.

So extreme was the cold at that far-off period in history, it stands chronicled by the an cients that in Gaul, Germany, Pannonia, Thrace, snow positively covered the ground so long as to prevent the cultivation of olives. grapes and other fruits which are raised there at the present time in abundance. Ice or snow to any considerable amount would now be a phenomenon in Italy

But, despite this instance we can see nothing in the seasons of the last twenty years to indicate any material or permanent modification of the isothermal lines or of the monthly diffusion of heat and light by the relative position of the sun. When changes do come like those prophesied, it will be internal rather than external, and then we shall all see and feel the revolution.

What Dime Novels Are.—A Memphis rring to a recent DIME NOVEL, Written by a Memphis man, says of it and of Dime

"No wonder these publications succeed so well. The publisher pays the author a fair price for his work, while the publishers of magazines do not half nor quarter pay the writers that work for them, but grab all the profits and proceeds themselves. They look upon writers as drudges, and hence none but drudges will write for them. A good article is hardly ever found in a magazine now. They are unmitigated trash and nauseating drivel. The mi serly and unfair dealing of those "respectable' publishers have driven all promising young writers away from their leaden literature, and consequently driven all readers except a few of the dull, respectably heavy and stupid sort, who cling to old forms and old ghosts of things. This is the great cause of the decline, the atrophy of the magazine litera ture of the country. You might look in vain through the pages of magazines like Harper's for five years at a stretch, to find such a description of scenery as

And then follows a long quotation from the novel. Without adverting to the justice or injustice of the strictures on current magazine literature, we can say that BEADLE'S DIME NOVELS' series comprise more thoroughly good and sterling historic romance than any series ever issued in America, at any price. These novels, prepared with exceed ing care by authors of unquestioned merit, are a standing rebuke to those who pronounce all cheap books trashy and ephemeral. Fenimore Cooper were to-day alive he would be called upon to write his best for the Dime Novels' series. We know it is the fashion, in certain quarters, to belittle this truly great series of national American Romance; but, considering the magnificent success of that series, the publishers can afford to pity these detractors, whose best excuse for their misstatements is their entire ignorance of the books they disparage.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Supposing you and I are a little better off n our worldly circumstances than our poorer neighbors, and can afford to follow the whims and caprices of Dame Fashion, are we one whit better at heart than they? Do our silks and satins confer any more honor on us than the calico and home-spun do on the less fortunate ones? I grant you that fine clothes gain us more respect, but are those who respect us for the quality of our

garments alone, worthy of our esteem?

I don't object to good clothes, for we should all dress as well as our circumstances will permit; but the idea of our holding ourselves above others simply because we are "rigged up," is absurd and preposter-ous, and is ridiculous and laughable as well.

Is there such a great difference between one who is called a magnificent beauty, and another who is deemed a "horrid fright?" I admire beauty, though I have no pretensions to it myself; but I don't hate homeliness. If God conferred outward loveliness on one, and plainness on another, is it for us to question His works?

No, it is not; but we do it, and more shame for us that we do. We court the affections of beauty, and neglect those of the plain. Yet all the while you will usually find more loveliness in the heart of a plain person, than in the one endowed with beau-

And the reason is a very natural one. Miss Beauty is so complimented on her good looks, and is told a thousand times how handsome she is, that she has but little room in her brain to think of much else. With Miss Plainly the case is different. She knows she is not handsome; her glass does not deceive her on that point, and she says to herself, "Well, if I haven't any beauty in my face, I must endeavor to cultivate some in my heart."
And she does it, and she does it with

such a zest that she forgets that there are high bones in her cheeks, that her nose is a trifle longer than she would have had it had she been the chooser of it; in truth, I verily believe she forgets she has a face at all.

Did you ever wander through a cemetery. and read the long and laudatory epitaphs on some of the marble monuments? Did not some of the marble monuments? But not a wonder come over you as to whether the sleeper deserved all these lines, if he had every one of these virtues which were ascribed to him? What good did so much lettering do? Did it gain the dead an easier entrance into heaven?

I have had these thoughts many a time.

I have had these thoughts many a time. I have read lines on tombstones that sounded like rank falsehoods, and then I could say, "Now, if those words were transferred to that almost neglected little tombstone in the corner, it would be more like the truth." I knew which had the most right to live in the hearts of us

the hearts of us.

It seems like wickedness to put a marble cross over the remains of one who never followed its teachings during his life, and neglect the grave of him who was worthy to be called an apostle. Do the dead sleep more calmly in their rosewood caskets than those inclosed in pine-wood coffins? I can not believe it. What is the difference between them?

To leave the dead and come back to the living, what is the difference between the high and low? Is money every thing in this world? Are industry, talent, goodness, perseverance naught? If so, then give me a ticket and let me emigrate to some other land.

If you're ashamed of your neighbor because he wears a shabby coat, give him a better. If his hands are coarse, give him more wages and less hard work to do, and

see if they won't become softer!
That's what I like to see—one aiding I hate to hear persons talking about the miserable condition of the work ing classes when they won't do any thing to make their condition better.

We are one great family, and, as long as we behave ourselves, I can't see such a vast deal of difference in us. If you can, you have better eyesight than I have. This may be all wrong, but it is the decided opinion of EVE LAWLESS.

Foolscap Papers.

Later Inventions.

Among my more recent inventions are A printing press that sets its own type writes its own editorials and stirs up delinquent subscribers. It answers very well or a clothes' press, or a subsoil plow, or a threshing machine, and is warranted to

press the question, or to press forward.

A brick ship, to sail the mighty waters of the great Atlantic. It has a granite founda tion, with a fine cellar, and a good well with a free stone-paved walk running in front of it at the rate of ten knots a mile

A simplified pot-hook, which you can unfold, and it makes a nice spring bonnet for your wife; and it is equally easy to turn it nto an overcoat, or you can use it for a handkerchief or a standing collar.

A compound toothpick, which will pick any thing out of a hollow tooth from a shoulder of meat to a toothache. fold it and behold you have a step-ladder give it another twist, and then you have a one-horse dray; reverse it, and you have a cottage with three rooms and an acre lot.

A pair of scales, which will weigh any thing from a section of the Hoosic tunne to your sweetheart's lightest words and actions. They will help you to weigh the chances, and on the darkest night will show you the weigh. They will make seven pounds of meat weigh ten if you are selling, or will make ten pounds weigh seven if you are buying; besides helping you to weight for supper. They are war-ranted to scale a fish or a mountain. They are on a scale of an inch and a half to the

A washing-machine so complete that dirty clothes get scared and immediately turn white when they behold it. Every man can now be his own washerwoman.

An umbrella, so antagonistic to water that, if you should fall in the river with it, you would come out perfectly dry. It is altogether unnecessary even to hold it over you in a storm. Fold it up and it is a walking cane, press on a spring and it is a coal scuttle: turn it inside out and it is olug hat, turn it again and you have a pair of boots. Everybody gets dry who carries

A handy basket, which will carry almost any thing: it will carry the news, carry an election, carry figures over to the next column, carry a joke as far as you want it, but never too far, and, if you should tarry too long when the benzine is crimson, you can put yourself into it and carry yourself as soon as they are found in the basket, are faith.

home. By reversing it slightly you have a fine brick chimney, and with a very little trouble it is converted into an elegant doormat; unfold it and you have a cast-iron

A splendid bookbinder, which will also bind wheat, bind a contract, bind up a wound, and bind you over to court for a thousand dollars.

An iron fire-poker, which will make the laziest fire stir up; change it and you have a splendid cashmere shawl; transmogrify it and you have a number one circular-saw alter it and you have a spittoon; reverse it and you have a four-posted bedstead; take it in and you have a fine necktie; metamorphose it and you have one of the most

complete soap factories in the State.

A splendid hair-restorer for bald heads. A friend of mine, whose hair had a falling out with him and refused to acknowledge his crown, used a little too much of it and it grew out so fast that he was compelled to hire six barbers to stand by him con-stantly and shear it off. He was nearly a gone case, but, on sending for me, I pre-scribed Wiggles' Restorative, which com-pletely stopped the growth.

A turning-machine, which will turn a dpost, turn an honest penny, turn a sommersault, turn a rhyme, turn a grindstone, or turn a paper collar with great facility.

A fur-lined overcoat, which may be easily turned into a wheelbarrow by pressing on a spring, or into a pair of spectacles, or sus-

penders, just as you wish. A meerschaum pipe, which answers very well for a stove-pipe or a Highland bagpipe—it requires one man to smoke it and another to blow. It is reversible, and can be made into a reversible chair, a well-curb, or a saw-mill, or a fine-tooth comb.

WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

Woman's World.

A Basket Story. — Fashionable Philanthropy. — Nobody's Children.—The New York Foundling Asylum.—Woman's Work in the Metropolis. "This must be the place—for, see—there is the basket in the vestibule."

'Yes, and on the door I see a plate with the words, 'Foundling Asylum,' on it."
So my friend and I mounted the steps, and before ringing the bell, inspected the

It was a small basket crib, painted white and furnished with the whitest and daintiest of plain baby bed-linen. The little pillow was soft as down, the mattress yielded to the touch with the unmistakable elasticity of wool or curled hair, the little ruffled curtains, also pure white, forming a graceful canopy over the little bed, where six or seven little babies—Nobody's Children—were daily deposited.

While we stood there, wondering and

pitying, there came up the steps two poor women, with two babies in their arms. They evidently were of the humbler class-We made way for them, and rung the The door was almost instantly opened, by a little blue-eyed girl of about ten years of age, with a brown curly head. She looked very grave and serious, as if she understood the whole situation. In obedience to her request we entered; but as she still held the door open, we were irresistibly attracted to the cape in the rectibule.

tracted to the scene in the vestibule.

The poor women advanced, sobbing, to the basket, and laid their babies in it, side by side. They tried to take a farewell kiss of the little sleepers, but returned again and again to clasp them in their arms and weep over them. At last one of them took her baby out of the basket, and started off with

Oh, my baby! how can I give you up?" But soon she returned and put it back in he little white nest, and started off alone, weeping, but to return and repeat the trying scene, again and again; but at last she resigned her baby, and in a few minutes we saw it and its little companion foundling brought in to the Sisters—for this Asylum was under the charge of the Sisters of

It was three years ago, when I made that visit with my friend, to the Foundling Asylum, which had been only a few months existence, though the want of such an institution as a means for the prevention of infanticide in the city of New York, had been discussed in this city for several years. Sorosis, our only woman's club, had passed resolutions advocating such a charity; the city press had, loudly and at length, pointed out the necessity for it; but it remained for the Sisters of Charity to make an actual The duty was, some move in the matter. how or other, expected of them; for, at the doors of their numerous houses, scattered all over the city, these pious workers would frequently find, early in the morning, a bundle in which was enveloped a tiny, wail ing waif of humanity. So they began with four Sisters in a small house on Twelfth street to inaugurate a charity, which soon became so stupendous in its work that it attracted the attention of the whole city: then became a fashionable charity, and was, before the close of the first year, enrolled as one of the city institutions, under the name of the "New York Foundling Asylum of the Sisters of Charity.'

It is a notable fact that the first donation made to this institution was by a Protestant lady, Mrs. R. B. Connolly, who afterward collected among her private friends and acquaintances the sum of twenty thousand dollars for the asylum.

But, twenty thousand dollars was but a "drop in the bucket," or, rather, ocean, of expenses of such an establishment. Soon the babies began to come in at the rate of three or four every twenty-four hours. was hard work to take care of all the little inmates of the asylum who were found in the baskets. But, as I said, it became fashionable to aid the foundlings, and every time I went to the asylum, on the regular visiting days, I found numbers of elegantly attired ladies of fashion, of all denominations, busy at work, cutting and sewing and making clothing for the babies—" nobody's children "-who came pouring at all hours of the day and night into the basket in the vestibule.

A few weeks since I went again to visit the home of babies-now no longer in Twelfth street, but removed to a large building at No. 3 Washington square, north. The same little blue-eyed, brown-haired girl opened the door for me that I saw on my first visit. She is now a great girl, and looks strangely serious for one so young, but not unhappy. I wondered if any other little girl in New York had ever seen as babies as this little blue-eyed, curly. headed maiden.

The basket crib is now under the portico of the house, in Washington square, in the vestibule of the basement; but the babies,

brought up-stairs into the back parlor for the presiding sister's inspection, and, of course, my little blue-eyed girl must see them all, as she is still the portress. If that little girl who stands between the basket and the interior of the asylum could add her impressions to the stories the basket could tell, if it could speak, what touching tales of broken hearts and mortal anguish would be revealed!

The sister in charge of the asylum tells me that now there is an average of seven foundlings a day left in the basket. Three foundlings a day left in the basket. Three thousand in all have been found in it. Of these, one thousand three hundred are living and in charge of the sisters, or out at nurse, and visited by them at the nurses' houses. Many have been returned to the parents, generally in case of the marriage of the father and mother, but more than half have died! This proportion is smaller than the number of deaths occurring in European foundling asylums, and it is not European foundling asylums, and it is not considered a large proportion when the facts are taken into consideration: first, that the children are frequently in a dying condition when found in the basket; second, that many have come in with cruel marks of violence on their little bodies, showing that they had barely escaped murder at the hands of one or the other parent; third, that a large proportion are fearfully and hopelessly diseased when they are left, and others so scantily clothed, even in mid-winter, they are almost frozen when found

I also learned that it takes \$11,000 a month to provide for these children and their one thousand nurses; that the city gives from its treasury, \$8,000 of this money, and the remaining \$3,000 is supplied by private benevolence; and, moreover, that this private benevolence has its princi-pal flow from the *fashionable* classes of so-ciety in New York. If any one doubts it, let them visit the asylum on any Tuesday between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M. They will see more diamonds, velvets, cost-ly furs, laces, and silks, there than on a whole block on Broadway or Fifth Avenue; and they will see those same silk and vel-vet-robed dames at work with their needles and scissors, their white and jeweled fin gers busy fashioning the garments for those thirteen hundred babies, the nobody's chil-

dren, found in the asylum basket. We sometimes hear people, particularly country people, talking about the "wickedness of New York." Well, I know it is wicked, but show me another city on the face of the globe where it is fashionable to be so truly benevolent as those ladies are who sustain, or help to sustain, this muchneeded institution? Along with our city's corruptions stand her wondrous charities—so wondrous that New York has been styl-

ed "The City of Charities."
I learned, further, that there would soon be a new Foundling Asylum building, or buildings, erected at a cost of over \$100,000, on a square in the upper part of the city, lying between 68th and 69th streets, and Lexington and Third Avenues, in close proximity to the Central Park. The land also valued at \$100,000—both land and money appropriated by the State Legisla-ture for this noble charity. But I can never forget that women began the work, and women have sustained that beginning; and I know every woman will agree with me when I assert that every good work begun by good women, will, sooner or later, like the Foundling Asylum, be accepted and sustained by good and true men. What that asylum may become in the future, who can foresee? What part those little waifs of humanity, nobody's children, found in the little basket in the vestibule may be destined to enact upon the future historic page, is a still more interesting and mo-

HAND-SHAKING.

EVERY man shakes hands according to his nature, whether it be timid or aggressive, proud or humble, courteous or churlish vulgar or refined, sincere or hypocritical. enthusiastic or indifferent. The nicest refinements and idiosyncrasies of character may not perhaps be discoverable in this fashion, but the more salient points of temperament and individuality may be made clear to the understanding of most people by a better study of what I shall call the physiology or the philosophy of hand-shaking. Some people are too "robustious" to be altogether pleasant. They take the offered hand with the grasp of a vice, and as if they had with malice prepense resolved to squeeze all the delicate little bones of your knuckles into pulp or mince-meat. And while the tears of agony come into your eyes and run down your cheeks, they smile at you benignantly, like gentle giants unconscious of their strength and of the tyranny with which they exercise it. Many of them are truly good fellows, and mean all the cordiality of which their awful squeeze is the manifestation. Another, and even more odious kind of hand-shaker, is he who offers you his hand, but will not permit you to get far hold of it:

"With finger-tip he condescends
To touch the fingers of his friends,
As if he feared their palms might brand
Some moral stigma on his hand."

To be treated with the cool contempt of supercilious scorn which such a mode of salutation implies, is worse than not to be saluted at all. Better a foeman, with whom you feel on terms of equality, than an acquaintance-he can not be called a friend-who looks down upon you as if he were a superior being, and will not admit your social equality without a drawback and a dis-It sometimes happens, however count. that this result is due to the diffidence of the shakee, rather than to the pride of the shaker. If a timid man will not hold his hand out far enough to enable another to grasp it fairly, it is his own fault, and be trays a weakness in his own character, and not a defect in that of him who would be friendly with him. Another hand-shaker whose method is intolerable, and with whom it is next to impossible to remain on friendly terms, is the one who offers you one finger instead of five, as much as to say am either too preoccupied in myself, or think too little of you, to give you my whole hand. With such a man the interchange of any but the barest and scantiest courtesy is rendered difficult. Friendship is wholly out of the question. To shake hands without removing the glove is an act of discourtesy, which, if unintentional and thoughtless, requires an apology for the hurry or inadvertence which led to it. This idea would also seem to be an occult remnant of the old notion that the glove might conceal a weapon. Hence true courtesy and friendship required that the hand should be naked, as a proof of good

Readers and Contributors.

To Correspondents and Authors.—No MSS, received that a not fully prepaid in postage.—No MSS, preserved for future orders.—No MSI in the MSI property of the MSI preserved for future orders,—the molecular of the MSI prepaid only where stamps accompany the inclosure, for such return.—No correspondence of any nature is lemperfect are not used or wanted. In all cases our choice rests first upon merit or fitness; second, upon excellence of MS. as "copy"; third, length, Of two MSS. of equal merit we always prefer the shorter.—Never write on both sides of a sheet. Use Commercial Note size paper as most convenient to editor and compositor, tearing off each page as it is written, and carefully giving it its folio or page number.—A rejection by no means implies a want of merit. Many MSS. unavailable to us are well worthy of use.—All experienced and popular writers will find us over ready to give their offerings early attention.—Correspondents must look to this column for all information in regard to contributions. We can not write letters except in special cases.

The following contributions we find unavailable, and return those where stamps (full letter rates) were remitted for such return, viz.; "The Boatswain's Doom;" "The Silent Ship;" "Ranger's Courtship;" "Country Life;" "A Successful Ambush;" "Death of Old Year;" "Down with the Anchor;" "Jack, the Ventriloquist;" "The Silent Testimony;" "That Droadful Secret;" "The Father's Hate;" "Johnny Jimp's Christmas Box;" "Mrs. Benson's Adopted;" "The Castle Guardian," "Roses in December;" "Not if I Know It, Sir." Must have Edwin Charles correct name and address before reporting on his poem, which is good if original.

gnal.
We place the following on the accepted list: "Jo
Coffin's Revenge;" "Hidden Letter;" "When
Knaves Fall Out;" "New Way of Catching a Wife;"
"Golden;" "In the Bonny, Bonny Spring Time;"
"Winter Winds;" "Harvest Time."

E. N. G. Poem accepted. Is very good. C. E. B. Josephine Mansfield is not dead. STAR. We know of no such place as Calada.

G. W. C. Write to Custom House Office, Port-and, Maine. XENIAS. Write to Dr. Lewis, editor of To-Day, Philadelphia.

FRENCHY. We do not publish the SATURDAY JOURNAL stories in book form. PEDRO. Wash head in weak solution of ammonia

HAP HAZARD. Error was owing to blind MS. Don't blow up proof-reader for your own shortcom-

lags.

Ladies, in writing to editors or business people, should always append Mrs. or Miss to their names. Some of our lady correspondents doubtless feel hurt at being addressed as "Dear Madame." We are bound to believe every woman a Mrs. who does not expressly state that she is a Miss.

expressly state that she is a Miss.

J.R. W. Your MS. is unavailable. Judging by it you are scarcely yet qualified to write for the press—are too young, perhaps, and do not fully understand the cut of composition and punctuation.—The same must be said to Vincent S. His knowledge of grammar is very limited.

G. It is quite nossible that the series of series.

G. It is quite possible that the series of papers referred to may be revised and put in permanent

shape.

Miss Rosa B. St. Valentine's Day is February 14th. Why the bishop St. Valentine, who was martyred A. D. 270, should have had a lover's day named after him is not apparent. In pagan Rome it was customary for youths to draw names in honor of the goddess Februata Juno, on February 15th, and when paganism gave way for Christianity this custom, like many others, was christianized, and the day changed to the 14th, and renamed in honor of the bishop. "On this day the birds begin to pair," says an old adage; so young folks make it the occasion for sending the tender missives called Valentines.

WILLE F. Cleopatra's needle is a solid tapering obelisk of red granite, cut from top to bottom with deep, sharply-defined, symbolic characters which nobody understands. Lying about five feet below the level of the ground, its mate was discovered about thirty years ago.

about thirty years ago.

F. S. R. Dayten. Trepanning is lifting a portion of the skull. A trephine is similar to a thimble with saw teeth on its rim. By turning round and round, as a gimlet is used, a button of bone is taken out. Room is made for picking out fragments that irritate, and for giving a chance to introduce the end of a lever to raise up the crushed-in bone that presses upon the brain.

STUDENT OF FRENCH. What you state is true. Such was the frequency of suicide among French women, at one period of French history, that it was at last checked by a novel law—that the body of every woman who killed herself should be exposed to the public entirely naked before burial. The plan succeeded admirably.

Mrs. Peter H. We know of no "practical use"

MRS. PETER H. We know of no "practical use" to which you can put your supposed powers of clairvoyancy. It is a very singular mental faculty, but is by no means of recent development. It has been the power exercised by seers and prophets in all ages. As far back in the traditions of the Orient as when they first began to cry Allah Kevim, God is Great, among the descendants of Ishmael, they cultivated a science called "Ism Allah," which was nothing but what is now called clairvoyancy. It is "seeing with the soul," but this vision is so apt to be obstructed by the mental and moral defects of the "medium," that it is rarely of any practical value. Swedenborg was a superb clairvoyant.

Youngster. Locusts are edible. Immense quan-

Youngster. Locusts are edible. Immense quantities of the insects are gathered in Barbary for food. They are boiled and dried upon roofs of houses. A favorite preparation is to roast them. They are also eaten alive without hesitation by the common people, when in haste for refreshment. The Jews in many parts of Asia, are said to declare that the quails, on which the Israelites feasted so liberally in the desert, has been mistrauslated—it should read locusts.

should read locusts.

Henry F. R. We advise you, in the coming season, to cultivate all the celery you can. It finds a ready sale in every market, and should be used in every family, for it is the most healthy of all edible plants, and by a profuse cultivation will become cheap enough to be purchased by the poor, who need it as a healthy article of food.

need it as a healthy article of food.

POULTRYMAN. You are vastly mistaken in your idea that a hen lays but 130 eggs a year, and can not be made to lay more. If properly cared for, a good hen will lay through the whole year, excepting about two months of what is known as the moulting season, and average from 275 to 300 eggs per annum, for three years. Plenty of cold water should be ever convenient for their constant use; warm quarters are essential, and they should be regularly fed with grain, and once a day, with a warm mixture of boiled potatoes and meal.

HETTIS CRISCOME. The best Honiton lace is made in Beer, Devonshire, England. It is stated that every family in the village was engaged upon the manufacture of the wedding vail for the last Royal wedding. Charles Jeffreys. There is a considerable ex-CHARLES JEFFREYS. There is a considerable ex-cess of females over males in Great Britain, which is due to the large emigration of men. In ten years 2,123,235 emigrants have sailed from the United Kingdom, and among them the number were 130,245 more males than females.

THEODORE SMITH. The largest swinging bell in the world is soon to be cast and hung in the cathedral at Cologne. The diameter on the lower rim will be thirteen feet, and the hight seventeen feet. It is to be called "Kaiserglocke," At Peking and Moscow there are large bells, but they are fixed. St. Peter's, at Rome, now has the largest bell in Europe—its weight being 38,000 pounds.

—its weight being 38,000 pounds.

Society Miss. Ladies of taste should always remember that colors vary by daylight and gaslight. Never select colors by gaslight, for they gain or lose by daylight. Violet changes most, and becomes a dull reddish brown by day. Blue, if pure, becomes greenish. There is a shade of blue which has no brilliance by day, but lights up well by gaslight, while turquoise siks are just the opposite. Greens, that incline most to yellow, look the prettiest of an evening. Yellow always looks best of an evening. Pink changes to salumon color by gaslight; and red is enhanced in beauty by gas or candle-light. Orange assumes a fire hue. Black and white also are affected by day and gas lights, the former looking dull by night, and the latter looking best.

JAMES TYLER. The wandering albatross, found in the Southern seas, can remain longer on wing than any other bird known. This albatross has been known to follow a ship across the Atlantic, flying steadily in the air, and only once in a great while flapping its wings.

NURSE. You can easily make lime-water by pouring water on fresh-slacked quick-lime, and pouring off the clear solution. Never administer it, however, as medicine, without consulting your physician.

Housewife. You can make excellent honey by boiling five pounds of sugar in a quart of water; skim well, and when cold add one pound of bees' honey and four drops of peppermint essence. If you desire to better it, use white sugar, one-half pint less water, and one-half-pound more honey, and put into the water one-fourth of an ounce of alum.

MAGGES. Three things cause a red nose; first, disease of the liver; second, tight laoing; and third, hard drink.

Unanswered questions on hand will appear

MARY.

BY JOHNNIE DABB.

Mary, a maiden with flowing curls, And light as any fairy, I see her now as I saw her then— My little child-love, Mary.

Years have passed since we parted there. I vowed to forget her-never; We parted, knowing it was for years, And perhaps might be forever.

Mary, a woman of noble form, 'And a queenly grace around her, Safe and secure, amid the storm Of Fashion's throng, I found her.

She fair as ever; forgotten I; Or, may be in times of sadness, She sometimes thought of the fair-haired boy, Whose love to her now seemed madness.

Mary; a white stone marks the place Where they laid her, she my fairy. And my heart is laid in the ground beneath The stone that says but "Mary."

A Slight Difference.

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

"I AM determined to get a husband this season, at all events. You hear that, Rosa, I suppose? So make all your arrangements for a month, at least, at Long Branch."

Miss Myrtle Windybalm looked very decisive indeed as she delivered her words;

and little Rosa Mivart bent her graceful head lower over a lace overskirt she was mending; bent down that Miss Windybalm might not see the smile that rippled over

Such a sweet face as it was, too-one that Miss Myrtle often envied as she gazed at it, so pure, and fresh, and girlish, with its oleander complexion, dark, hazel eyes and satin brown hair.

But, after all, it was Rosa Mivart's mouth that constituted her chiefest beauty, so perfect was it, whether shut, looking so like folded rose leaves, or a crimson Cupid's bow, or parted in laughter, or conversation, so that it disclosed the even, white teeth, and brought the one deep dimple in her pink cheek.

Rosa was marvelously pretty; Rosa was poor, and she would have been homeless, friendless, moneyless, had not Miss Windybalm, who was fair, fat, forty, and comfortably off, needed her for maid, traveling com-panion, friend. Not that Rosa enjoyed the osition so very much, further than it supplied shelter, raiment, and food; for Miss Myrtle Windybalm's disposition was hard-

However, there were brighter spots in Rosa's dull life of late, than darning lace overskirts, trimming and re-trimming Miss Windybalm's evening dresses, and humoring all that lady's conceits.

And the bright spots were, first a series of watering-place visits, Newport, Cape May, Saratoga, and now last of all, Long Branch. Rosa liked such a life at times; why shouldn't she, young, healthy and pretty, if she never did have a dance in the sation or wear a better dress than a prime. loon, or wear a better dress than a prim gray and black crepe du chine?

The other bright spot in Rosa's life—not least by any means because mentioned last, was Guy Delfonda.

And it was of this friend of hers-for Mr. Delfonda, a constant caller on Miss Windy-balm, and the owner of a hundred thou-sand dollars, could hardly be expected to be more than a thoughtful kind friend of a girl who earned her living—that Rosa was thinking when Miss Myrtle's words were spoken. Then Rosa looked up from her

I will pack your trunks to-night, then, Miss Windybalm. You will wear steel-gray traveling suit? or the white

Miss Myrtle considered the matter sol-

emnly.
"Well, between us two, Rosa, I might as well wear the silver gray sack. It is the most becoming, I think, and affairs have come to such a pass, Rosa, that I feel as if I could not afford to lose the slightest chance. Just think of it, Rosa—this is a solemn secret—I am nearly thirty, and un-married still."

And Rosa, who knew well enough that she was on the shady side of forty, smiled in a manner that that lady never felt quite satisfied with, for she could not tell for the life of her whether Rosa was making fun

Now Rosa laughed.
"If you are, Miss Myrtle, you don't look
Your hair and complexion are wonder-

Miss Myrtle looked pensively in the

"Ye-e-s, so they are; and, would you believe it, Mr. Delfonda never suspects I use dye and paint. Rosa, I am determined to marry Guy Delfonda this season, and that is why I'm going to Long Branch. He'll be there."

Rosa started, then shut her lips defiantly. What if Mr. Delfonda did marry old Miss Windybalm? It was no one's affair but his own—at least none of hers. Then, an hour after, when she went to pack Miss Myrtle's trunks, some suspicious moisture kept dimming her sight; she hated Long Branch. for what good was it all to her, who deserved as much as other people? She hated Miss Windybalm, because she was in love -no, it was Guy Delfonda she despised after all, what need it all matter? She was only poor Rosa Mivart, and such she would be to the end of the chapter.

"Such a horrid, stuffy little room! Why, Rosa, do you suppose I could have endured it if I hadn't been kept up by the delightful fact that I was engaged—actually en-

Miss Windybalm smiled serenely from her uncomfortable chair, where she sat fan-ning, over to Rosa, who was leaning idly against the window.

"I am glad to congratulate you, and I suppose Mr. Delfonda is the happy suitor."

And at the bitterness in her voice Miss Windybalm started in surprise.

Well, upon my word! You snap at me as if I had done you a great injustice. Bless me, Rosa Mivart, I hope you're not jealous? I do hope you did not expect Mr. Delfonda

to marry you?"

For all answer the flery blushes surged over Rosa's cheeks, and Miss Myrtle went

on contentedly:

"He did propose so beautifully. To tell
the truth, Rosa, I thought he was a little vague, and once I actually thought he meant the offer for somebody else, and he was telling me by mistake. He is to come for his answer this afternoon. He is so thoughtful, Rosa, too, for he said he would speak to you when he came; but, of course, I

he intends offering you the same position you hold, only as his wife's maid instead of Miss Windybalm's. Eh, Rosa?"

For the delightful conceit sent beaming smiles all over Miss Myrtle's face, while Rosa fought so hard to keep back the tears that were too ready to come. that were too ready to come.

"You may lay out my pale-blue silk with the white lace waist and overskirt, Rosa. Guy will be here in half an hour now, and, of course, I want to be attired for the occasion. You had better wear the grenadine I gave you—it is plain and very suitable."

So Miss Windybalm and Rosa Mivart awaited Guy Delfonda's call matrimonial.

A quiet-voiced, grand-faced man of thirty-five he was, with a look all over him that would have led a perfect stranger to place confidence in him. Just such a strong-hearted, proud-spirited man, that Rosa Mivart's whole soul went out to, and as she watched him up the room, oh! the dumb anguish there was in her heart that Miss watched him up the room, our the dumpanguish there was in her heart, that Miss Windybalm— But her thoughts were suddenly dispersed, for Mr. Delfonda, instead of going up to Miss Windybalm, who awaited him all smiles and softness, in her armedair crossed over to Rosa and exarm-chair, crossed over to Rosa, and extended his hand.

"My darling, how can I thank you—"
"Mr. Delfonda, may I beg to know what

that means?"

It was Miss Windybalm's sharp, curt voice, her sharp light eyes that were going from Mr. Delfonda's face to Rosa's, that, in its astonishment, paled and flushed deli-

Guy turned carelessly toward his ques-"I can see no objections in thus address

ing the lady you this morning consented to give me for my wife. I told you I should

A groan, the incarceration of dashed hopes, mortified surprise, and impotent anger, arrested the lover's words; and then Miss Windybalm flounced out, regardless of

grace or etiquette.

And Rosa had it all explained to her perfect satisfaction; while Mr. Delfonda's amazement exceeded both his betrothed's and Miss Windybalm's. Poor Miss Windybalm! no wonder she had thought her suitor seemed so "vague!" She is single still, and this season is at Saratoga Springs, on her annual errand; and Mr. and Mrs. Delfonda are summering

Rocky Mountain Rob,

THE CALIFORNIA OUTLAW;

The Vigilantes of Humbug Bar.

BY ALBERT W. AIKEN, AUTHOR OF THE "WOLF DEMON," "OVERLAND
KIT," "RED MAZEPPA," "ACE OF SPADES,"
"HEART OF FIRE," "WITCHES OF
NEW YORK," "A STRANGE
GIRL," ETC., ETC.

> CHAPTER X. A COLD DEAL.

For a minute or two the old man laid back in his chair and roared in the face of the Indian.

A frown gathered upon the chief's stolid features, and with an angry gesture he wound the string around the neck of the

buck-skin bag which held the gold-dust and swept it from the table, in disgust.

"Ugh! Big chief talk straight; white father make fool of Injun!" and the brave rose majestically to his feet. Hold on! Sit down, chief; don't get r'iled," cried the old man, trying to appease

the evidently offended savage. Mud Turtle no like white father to laugh," said the Indian, gravely, and he re-

sumed his seat. "Of course—quite co-rect; but I couldn't help it; meant no offense, you know," Shook explained.

"Why white father laugh at Injun?" demanded the Blackfoot. Well, chief, the fact is, the idea of your

offering to buy my gal struck me comical."
"Chief heap poor," the Indian said, anxiously; "give white father all he can for young squaw—two Injun squaw, one pony, gold-dust;—maybe chief give more dust—

gold-dust;—may be chief give more dust-s'pose that buy squaw, eh?"

"Oh, you offer 'nuff, chief; that ain't the p'int," the old man explained.

"Squaw sold to 'nother chief? Mud Turtle take his scalp; then buy squaw-

The Indian had evidently used his ears since he had been hanging round the white men's camp, as this phrase proved.
"You're barking up the wrong tree, Injun," responded old Shook, good-naturedly.

"The fact is, we don't sell our squaws, as you red-skins do." "No sell squaw?" said the Indian, slowly and in evident astonishment.

'No; we give 'em away. When they see a fellow that they want to tie to, they jist spit it out to us, and then we say, 'sail and the two fix the affair up

The chief was silent for a few minutes. evidently pondering over the words of the white man; then an idea seemed to flash across his mind, and he surveyed Shook, with a beaming smile on his dusky features.

Maybe chief know now," he said, slow-Squaw want to go with chief, white This plain and straight-forward question was a poser to Shook. He scratched his

head for a moment; then he stroked his "Well-" he said, meditatively. "Ugh!" and the Indian gave a grunt of discontent. "When Injun speaks straight, white father no answer," and his tone plain-

ly betrayed that he considered himself ag-Look a-here!" cried the old man, sud-

denly; "why don't you go and get a squaw out of your own tribe?"

Chief got two now; wants white squaw bad," was the laconic reply.
"I don't believe that the gal would have you!" Shook exclaimed, just a little impa-

White father means that he would not give her to chief at all?" The savage evidently was discontented.

"Well, chief, I r'ally own I should ob-"White father no take two squaws, one pony, gold-dust—ugh?"
"We can't trade," Shook replied.

Then the Indian sat and thought for quite a long time, while the other watched him with a comical grin. Suddenly the Blackfoot bent over and

ket, he produced a dirty pack of cards, which he laid down on the table; then he pointed to them:
"Chief know?" "Keerds!" and the old man nodded.

"Big Injun put two squaw, one pony, bag gold-dust up 'g'in' little white squaw, play barefooted-on-top-of-head-father poker—how's that for high ?" Old Shook stared with open mouth at the

savage, as he made this offer.
"What?" he said, in utter astonishment. "Flax white father like blazes!" the Indian said, sententiously.
"The devil you will!" exclaimed the

landlord, his temper rather excited.
"White father no play—no lose white squaw; play—lose white squaw every

Old Shook did not relish the boasting words of the Indian. In his younger days he had been a mighty man at cards, and now, for this heathen savage to coolly announce to him that he could flax him like blazes with the "papers," was more than the blood of the old man could stand.

He glanced carefully out of the window.

He glanced carefully out of the window, as if he was calculating the chances of any-

as if he was calculating the chances of anybody witnessing his movements; then he looked wistfully at the cards displayed so temptingly on the little table.

The Indian's keen eyes were fixed searchingly upon the other's face. He saw that he was yielding to the temptation, and a glitter, that told of anticipated triumph, shone in the dark eyes.

"I can't do it!" the old man muttered to himself. "I've j'ined the church, and it's ag'in' my principles to touch them devil's picture-books, but I would like to take the conceit out of this heathen, though, I sw'ar!"

The chief noticed this indecision, and carelessly took up the cards. Shuffling them a few times, he then dealt the old man five cards, then himself five, and, as he re-turned the pack to the table, Shook saw

that the under card was the ace of hearts.

The old man's eyes followed the Indian's movements, with an eager, hungry look. "Let white father look at hand; maybe he play chief then," the red-skin said,

gravely.
"I sw'ar I'd like to flax the heathen," Old Pop muttered, and then, no longer able to resist the temptation, he took up the five cards and chuckled as he looked at them. He held four kings and a jack: a hand which only four aces could beat, and with his own eyes, Shook had seen that one of the aces was at the bottom of the pack on the table; therefore it was clearly impossible that the Indian could hold the four aces. Shook looked searchingly at the savage. The Indian sat perfectly impassible; his cards lay on the table; he had not looked

at them yet. Again looking at his hand, he muttered: "I reckon that it won't be much of a sin, arter all, to take the conceit out of this pesky

savage, jist for once.
"It's to be a straight game—the hands ag'in' each other jist as we hold 'em?" he

The Indian gravely nodded assent. "I'll play on one condition, chief," said Shook, suddenly, as an idea occurred to

"White father speak-Injun do, p'haps." "That ef I win, you'll give up your hea-then religion and become a Christian?" A slight smile played for a moment around the corners of the Indian's mouth, hen he inclined his head gravely.

"Big Injun do as white father says, if white father win." "I r'ally must flax him," thought the con-

scientious Shook. At that moment Bob Shook and Johnny Bird entered the room, and were considerably astonished when they found the landlord of the Waterproof engaged in a little game with the Blackfoot chief, and were still more astonished when told what the stakes were on either side. Look out that the heathen don't flax

you, father," Bob hinted in the old man's ear.
"He can't do it," whispered the old man. "It will take four aces to beat me and I

see'd one on 'em at the bottom of the "Maybe he let you see it on purpose and has rung in a 'cold deal' on you." "I tell you I see'd it plain enough; I ain't a flat," the old landlord retorted, quite

angry. White father ready, chief ready too,"

white father ready, chief ready too,"
and the Indian seized up his cards.
"I'm ready; now it's a good fair game;
you'll pay ef you lose?" Old Shook quivered, trembling with excitement.
"Chief pay—white father pay too?"
"Yes; there—four kings!" Shook slapped the cards down, ni triumph, and reached for the bag of gold-dust, which the In-

dian had again placed upon the table.
"Wait!" said the Indian, laconically, covering the bag of gold-dust with his broad hand as he spoke. "Injun rake pile," and he deliberately laid four aces down on

Shook grew scarlet with rage, and with a howl, he made a dive for the pack, turned up the bottom card, and it was the tray of hearts; the Indian had ingeniously conceal ed the two end spots with his thumb and finger when he had purposely let Shook see the card, so that the center spot alone being

visible, it had appeared to the old man as With a wolf-like yell, Bob Shook went over backward in his chair, as if he had suddenly been seized with a fit, while

Johnny Bird pretty near strangled himself in trying to swallow the table-cloth.
Old Shook, with the tray of hearts clutched in his fist, stood in the center of the

room, a picture of despair.

The Indian rose and folded his blanket around him, with an air of quiet dignity.
"Come for squaw by-and-by," he said, and then stalked out of the house.

We regret to say, that for full five min-utes, old Pop Shook forgot that he had experienced "grace," and swore like a trooper, and then only regained possession of himself by seizing a barrel-stave and driving Bob and Johnny Bird, who were laughing like a couple of lunatics, out of the

> CHAPTER XI. THE COLONEL'S TROUBLE.

THE sun rose bright and early on the morning following the day when we first took up the tangled skein of life in the Humbug valley.

Colonel Jacks and Doc Kidder happened to meet in front of the Waterproof saloon.

Their errand was the same—a morning "cocktail," compounded by Old Shook's skillful hand, to impart an appetite for

breakfast. Colonel Jacks was nervous and shaky the lines on his face were deeper and stern er than ever, and his eyes were restless and

Kidder, on the contrary, looked as if he had just come out of a bandbox; his com-plexion was fresh and rosy, his mustache carefully waxed, and his step as elastic as a boy of twenty. Yet, Kidder was an older man than the veteran soldier, and had been man than the veteran soldier, and had been up all night, too, indulging in a "little game" with some of the "sharps" from Get-up Gulch and Poor-shoat City, and, to the credit of the Bar, be it said, Kidder had succeeded in flaxing the strangers out of all their loose gold-dust and had sent them back to their respective homes in figurative caskaloth and schee. sackcloth and ashes.

sackcloth and ashes.

"Good-morn'g, colonel," cried Kidder;

"where you bound so early?"

"Going to get a little bitters before breakfast," the old soldier replied, hoarsely

and nervously. "See here, my dear colonel, you seem out of sorts this morning," and the gambler laid his hand on the shoulder of the other.

"I'll be cursed if you ain't right, Kidder!" the colonel cried, with a hollow laugh; "some fine morning the Bar will wake up and find that I've given em a chance to start a first-class grave-yard. I say, Kidder, it's cursed hard that a man who ought to have died on some battlefield, paying his debt to the country that educated him, should peg out like a miserable coyote in some rotten old shanty up in the

'Oh, not so bad as that, colonel; you're only a little nervous this morning, that's

"I tell you, sir, that this worthless old carcass won't waste good victuals much longer," the other said, dogmatically. "I say, Kidder, do you ever sleep?" he asked,

'Why, of course," Kidder replied, switching some dust off the sleeve of his coat with his handkerchief. "How the deuce do you suppose I manage to live?

"You generally play cards all night."
"Ah, true, but then I sleep all the next Gentlemen who follow my trade for a living, are like owls-we prey by night and sleep by day."
"Kidder!" cried the old soldier, sudden-

ly, "I envy you!"

"Do you? Why?" the gamester asked, in astonishment. "Men who trust to cards and dice to give them their daily bread are

and dice to give them their daily bread are not generally objects of envy."

"Kidder, fortune has a devilish sight more to do with men in this world than most people imagine," Jacks said, bitterly.

"Now, take yourself, for instance; what made you what you are—a gambler?"

"Well now, my dear colonel, that is what a lawyer would call a leading question. There's not many men at the Bar

tion. There's not many men at the Bar who would think of putting such a ques-tion to me, and precious few of them would get an answer."
"You needn't answer me if you don't like," said the old soldier, bluntly.
"Colonel, I should deem it an honor to

answer any question that you might put to me," Kidder returned, quite seriously.

The seldier looked the gambler straight in the eyes for a moment, then extended his

hand to him, and said, impulsively:
"I believe you, sir; I believe you, sir!" "When I was about thirty years old I occupied a pretty responsible position, East; I got into difficulty and had to emigrate. From the force of circumstances I obliged to find refuge in some country where no extradition treaty with the United States existed. I selected Brazil. A delightful country-snakes, scorpions and fever. The latter broke me all to pieces. My money gone, and without friends, I nearly starved. Chance led me to one of the sailor drinking-houses frequented by foreigners. I saw the sailors gambling. I had always been an adept at all card games, for the fun of the thing, of course; and now I saw a chance to make a living; my health was so bad that I couldn't do hard work. and there I became a gambler, and have continued one ever since. I could easily defend my occupation by crying out that everybody gambles in this world, more or less, but that is only mere sophistry, springs

to catch woodcocks.' Kidder, you're a philosopher!" exclaimed the colonel, laying his heavy hand upon the shoulder of the other. "How many men would rest content as you have done? As for me, I kick against the traces all the time. Kidder, I believe that I've been the greatest fool that ever existed; curse me if I don't!"

Colonel, do you know that I've thought that way myself, a great many times, and from the little experience I had, I've come to the deliberate conclusion that almost every man thinks about the same thing of himself, sooner or later in his life."

"By Jove, sir, I believe you're right!" cried the colonel, emphatically. "Kidder, do you sleep?" he again demanded, sud-

denly.
"Why, of course; I should be in my grave if I didn't."

"Curse me if I can; I mean, sleep as I used to when I was a young man. Now,

sir, I have the most terrible dreams."
"Dreams!" Kidder ejaculated, and he flicked a dust-patch off his polished boot as "I dream sometimes, but don't take much stock in dreams, colonel. I re member once I dreamed that I ought to back the jack of spades the next time I tried a hack at faw. I dreamed the same dream three times, colonel, and that, they say, surely signifies that it will come true. Well, colonel, I backed the jack of spades, and I lost two thousand dollars before I got through. I really consider that dreams

are humbugs, colonel "I don't dream of the future, Kidder; I dream of the past," the colonel exclaimed, solemnly.

The past !" "Yes; all my past life comes back to me the moment I close my eyes. I go through all my trouble again. In the dayting I manage to forget all about it—86. I to at night, for that matter-but the moment sleep comes, the phantoms of memory rise to haunt me." The troubled face of the old officer showed how deeply he was affected.

"Well, now, if I was going to prescribe for you, colonel, I should say, take a good stiff rum-punch before you turn in, and if one ain't enough, repeat the dose. wonder, sometimes, at men becoming name."
drumkards. Liquor does dull the brain, "'Melican man wantee somee more?" said

there's no question about that. It's a sort

of mental suicide, though. It will break a man down in the end."

"Kidder, I never lay my head upon my bunk without being drugged with liquor. I'm pretty near a wreck, Kidder, and a woman has been my rock ahead."

"The device you cay." avgleimed Kiden. "The deuce you say!" exclaimed Kid-

der, in astonishment.

"Yes; a woman with the face of an angel and the heart of a fiend. By Jove! Kidder, men wouldn't be half the villains they are if the women would only let them alone!" The colonel spoke with fierce emphasis

A horseman riding up the street inter-

rupted the conversation.

The stranger was a young man of perhaps two and twenty, mounted on a superb black horse. He was a handsome fellow, with jet-black hair and eyes, and a face al-most as soft and fair as a woman's. The colonel grasped the arm of Kidder in intense excitement as his gaze fell upon the stranger.

the stranger.
"Heavens!" he cried, breathlessly; "that
boy is the very image of my wife!"

CHAPTER XII. THE HEATHEN CHINEE. "Your wife!" exclaimed Kidder, in as-

tonishment. "Yes; the she-devil who ruined all my life and made me the wreck that I am!"
The colonel spoke very bitterly.
The horseman dismounted, gave his ani-

mal in charge of the hostler, and entered the saloon. "It's a wonderful resemblance!" ex-claimed the old soldier, as the door closed

behind the stranger. "Looks like your wife, eh?"
"Yes; she was a young girl of French extraction that I married in New Orleans about twenty-seven years ago. She ruined me and then fled with a young French creme and then fied with a young French creole to Texas. I was stationed then at old
Fort Arbuckle, on the Canadian river. I
was in command of the post; the Mexican
war had just ended. I chased the fugitives
over the Texas line, leaving the fort to take
care of itself. In my hot headed rage I ran
my command into a Kioway camp and
fought three hundred of the red devils with
thirty men, and beat them, too. The affair thirty men, and beat them, too. The affair pretty near cost me my commission, though. Thanks to the Indians, my wife and her lover escaped. From that day I was an altered man. I drank to excess. On the frontier it didn't make much difference. My comrades covered the matter up pretty well, but when the war, broke out, I went into active service and the vary first day I foced the service, and the very first day I faced the rebels, with my regiment drawn up in line of battle, I was so drunk that I had to be

held on my horse by my aids. The rebs whipped us like blazes; I lost four hundred men out of eight. That affair settled me. In consideration of my Mexican record, I was allowed to resign. I hid myself out here, a disgraced man."

"Hard lines, colonel," the gambler said, gently.

gently.
"Cursed hard, sir. Why, when she fled with that young creole planter, she carried my child, sir, away with her."

"Did you ever see either her or the child

"Never; I never even heard of them."
"It would be a strange piece of luck if
this young fellow should be your son."
"That is impossible, sir; I never had a

"The child was a girl, then?"
"Yes—a little black-eyed thing; the mo-

ther all over.' "Possibly it's only one of those strange semblances that sometimes occur come, colonel, will you join me in a morning eye-opener?"

The two men then entered the Water-

proof saloon.

The stranger had entered the dining-room, and, seated at one of the little tables, was waiting for his breakfast. Shook had sat down by the table and had

engaged the stranger in conversation.
"From below, I reckon?" the old man 'Yes · from Bannock city." The voice of the stranger sounded very

brains to remember where he had met the young man before.
"Much of any thing going on below?" No, not much "I didn't know but that you might have

familiar to Shook, and he was cudgeling his

heerd something as you came up the val-Nothing." The Chinaman who acted as Pop Shook's principal assistant now brought in the stranger's breakfast, and after placing it upon the table, lingered near, as if with intent to see if any thing else was wanted.

The young man proceeded at once to at-

"'Pears to me that I've seen you somewhere afore," old Shook now remarked. The stranger looked up in surprise. "Your face and voice are mighty familiar to me," Shook continued," yet I disre-

tack the eatables.

member whar I met you; I reckon you never were hyer before?" "I'm from Walla Walla," answered the young man, resuming his eating.
"Well, I reckon I'm mistaken hyer,"
Shook said, doubtfully. "How might I

call your name?"
"John Rimee," the stranger replied. "Kinder odd name, ain't it—Rimee?" and the old man repeated the name, reflectively. "I reckon I never heerd a name like that afore. You must be a foreigner?"
"No, only of French descent. I was born in this country—in New Orleans."

"Oh, yes!" Shook exclaimed, "I've heerd of them French creoles." "By the way, landlord," said the young man, suddenly, "do you know a man called Talbot—Dick Talbot?"

"Well, now that you speak of it, it 'pears to me that I've heerd of a fellow by that name somewhar," the old man said, thoughtfully. "Is he a miner?" "No, he's a gambler who used to live in Bannock city, but I believe he's up in the

Humbug valley, now."
"Oh!" exclaimed the old man, "1 remember, now. I heerd Bob speak of him. Bob's my son; he's the express rider 'tween hyer and Beaver city. But I reckon that this Mister Talbot ain't anywhar 'round hyer. I should have heerd of him sure." Then there was a call made for Shook

from the other room, and the old man withdrew. Strange that the old man does not know anything about him," the young man mut-tered; "he has been here in this very house,

I am sure. Possibly he assumed another



a strange voice close by the stranger's side. He looked up and saw that the Chinaman had approached and stood by the table, with

"No, thank you, John; I've got all I want," the young man replied. On the Pacific Slope all natives of the celestial nation bear the common name of John.

Then the movements of the almond-eyed

Then the movements of the almond-eyed son of the flowery nation excited the wonder of the young stranger. The Chinaman crept cautionsly to the door, listened for a moment, then returned to the table and bent down mysteriously.

"Wantee see Melican man Talbee?"
This was as near as the celestial could come
to the name of Injun Dick.
"Yes!" exclaimed the young man, eager-

ly.
"What you givee me?" asked the Chinaman, shrewdly.

man, shrewdly.

The young man took a gold dollar from his pocket and held it up.

"Me tellee for dollee," the celestial said, tersely.

"Go on."
"'Melican man callee heself Smithee."
Rimee nodded to let the heathen see that he understood him. As the young man had guessed, Talbot had been passing under an assumed name.
"Givee dollee!" and the Chinaman ex-

tended his hand.

"Hold on a moment, my friend," Rimee said, holding the coin out of the reach of the other; "you haven't quite earned your dollar, yet. Where is this man now?"

The celestial hesitated for a moment.

"The celestial hesitated for a moment.

"Me don't knowee," he replied, at last.
Rimee was convinced from the manner
of the man that he was not speaking the
truth. He did not say so, but quietly returned the dollar to his pocket-book and

commenced eating again.

The Chinaman heaved a deep sigh when the gold-piece disappeared. Then he went to the door and listened again, then came back.

"Mee do knowee; me 'f'aid tellee," he said, in a whisper.

"Speak and the dollar is yours." And again Rimee held the yellow gold-piece up

again Rimee held the yellow gold-piece up before the eyes of the celestial. "Me tellee," the Chinaman said, decidedly, but with a cautious glance around him. "Go ahead then and be quick," Rimee said, impatiently.

"'Melican man, face hidee—throwee lasso; take Talbee 'way off in mountains."
Rimee started in amazement as this intelligence fell upon his ears. If the heathen spoke the truth, Talbot was in the hands of the road-agents!

"How do you know that this is so?" the young man asked, sternly. The thought occurred to him that perhaps the wily son of the East was lying in order to possess himself of the gold dollar.

"Chinee man comee long road—see 'Melican mans hidee—he hidee too. No likee 'Melican man's face hidee. See muchee—no tellee. "Melican mans killee John."

"How many were there with their faces hidden?"

The celestial held up three fingers.
"You are not lying?" Rimee cried, stern-

ly.
"John no lie—how could he?" said the celestial, in an injured tone.
"There's your dollar."
The eyes of the heathen glistened as his

The eyes of the heathen glistened as his fingers touched the gold-piece, and straightway he departed.

"Talbot must be saved, no matter what the cost!" the stranger cried, with compressed lips and an angry brow.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 152.)

The False Widow: FLORIEN REDESDALE'S FORTUNE

BY MRS. JENNIE DAVIS BURTON, AUTHOR OF "ADRIA, THE ADOPTED," "CKCIL'S DECEIT," "STRANGELY WED," "MADAME DURAND'S PROTEGES," RTC., ETC.

CHAPTER XVI.

"How do I look, Gerry? Are these roses becoming? And my flounces—I'm such an insignificant little thing that II can't wear deep ones, but Madame Elssler draped and looped them beautifully. Do I need any thing more?"

Miss Cornelia Day turned herself slowly around for her friend's inspection. She was exquisitely dressed in pink silk and white point, with clusters of moss rosebuds in her fluffy yellow hair.

"Lovely!" ejaculated Geraldine. "Madame Elssler has taste, but one with your fair complexion can wear any thing that's delicate. Now I have to resort to the deepest hues of the rainbow—we brunettes haven't the liberty of choice you blondes can take. You do need something more, though. Hold here till I pencil your eyebrows just the least bit in the world—it gives such a piquant east to the countenance. Just a dust more of powder to take that polish off your forehead—there, now you're perfect. I believe I'd have chosen white flowers if I were you, though nothing could be sweeter than those clusters

of half-opened buds. They just match the shade of my dress," answered Cornelia, and a blush which might have been the reflection of light from the pink silk swept over The true secret of her choosing them was this: at the ball of New Year's Eve, Aubrey had been rather extravagant in hi praises of Miss Redesdale's toilet in her hearing, and had especially remarked the effect of her simple decorations—clusters of moss rosebuds precisely like these. for the world would Miss Day have admit ted that she had studied every detail of her dress with a view to pleasing his taste, or that she had maneuvered to accompany the Lessinghams from their own house that she might have a fair excuse for monopolizing

Aubrey through the evening.

"Everybody will be at the opera tonight, I suppose," chattered Cornelia.

"Oh, Gerry! that corn-colored moire is
just heavenly; and the lace—real Chantilly, isn't it? You look like a queen, I declare. I wonder, now, what that Miss
Redesdale will wear. I can't see any thing
so remarkable about her that every one
should be going into raptures; it must be
that she's a new star in the firmament, I

"Oh, I dare say," answered Gerry, carelessly, but not without an inward twinge.
"Does my opera-cloak need a pin there in the back? What a darling hood! Even Aubrey, who is usually so indifferent, goes into ecstasies of admiration over her. It's

shameful, and I'm very indignant at him; I've got other plans for that brother of mine, and I'll be just heart-broken if he disappoints me. Ready, Neely? There he is, the impatient mortal."

"Now, then, girls, are you coming?" called Aubrey, from the stairway. "We're sure to be late, and there'll be such a crush

as we don't often see."

"Ready, brother. Oh, my fan; where is your bouquet, Cornelia? Not that hand-kerchief, Annette; one of my newest set. Come, my dear boy, please don't keep us waiting."

waiting."

"Cool, 'pon honor, after I've been fuming for an hour. I wouldn't believe it if I hadn't made the discovery myself, but there is one of your sex in this city who can be ready for an expedition of any sort on time. You ladies, I believe, would expect the angel Gabriel to blow his trumpet a second time if you were here to be favored with the 'winding of his horn.'"

"And pray, who is your paragon of

"Miss Redesdale, of course."

"Miss Redesdale, of course.

"Of course. I might have known it.
She seems to have inherited all the virtues under the sun, moon and stars. What it is to be a comet—to 'burst transcendent in a midnight sky!' We lesser lights may blink ourselves out and never be missed. We may hide our faces behind the clouds, Cornelia; in other words, take a back seat with such good or bad grace as we can muster."

"It's always the fate of old stagers isn't.

"It's always the fate of old stagers, isn't it?" murmured Miss Day, in plaintive tones. This was her third season and she was barely twenty, though looking younger. "I begin to believe what the poets say—that

"Oh, spare my devoted head! What unreasonable beings you girls are! There, I'm ready to cry 'peccavi!' any thing for the sake of peace."

Quite unconscious of the small storm of resentment which the song of her praises had raised in at least two feminine breasts, Florien made her toilet for the opera. She wore mauve silk made en traine and trimmed with priceless point, with pearls upon her neck and arms, and in her waving, luxuriant hair. She held a knot of fresh violets in her gloved hands, and her fan suspended from her wrist—a dainty marvel of pearl and silk

Mr. Arnold bestowed a look of unequivocal approval upon her as she let her snowy opera-cloak fall back, and leaned back in the private box. They were not late—they were unfashionably early in fact—and the California prince felt that if he made the declaration he had been contemplating for a week past, at last deciding to put his fate to the test this night, it must be done before the satellites that always thronged about her had an opportunity to invade their privacy. Lorgnettes from all parts of the house were directed toward them, but as yet no one had approached. He leaned forward, feasting his eyes upon her face, rare and fair as the purest pearl.

"How fortunate that we came early!" said Florien. "Of all places to see every one you know or hope to know, commend me to the opera. It is said that there is no heart so hard but it includes a soft spot somewhere, and I think there is no soul so bleak that it has not some love of music in

"Ah, Miss Florien, there are some hearts and souls so filled with other love that—that—by George! they're soft clear through, I believe. I can't make you fine speeches; it's not my way; but—but—if you'll marry me, I'll be the happiest man outside of California. I dare say I'm a blundering idiot, it's awkward and sudden, and all that sort of thing, but you see, I was afraid some other cove would cut in ahead and spoil my chance—if I have any. I can't dance or sing, or turn compliments, like these New York chaps—some of 'em—but I'd make you as good a husband. I love you, Miss Redesdale, and what's more, you're the only woman I've ever loved or asked to marry me. Will you be my wife?"

my wife?"

This speech, prolix for him, was a thunderbolt of astonishment to Florry. She was no coquette; she would never trifle with any man's heart, least of all one honest and sincere as this. Hugo Arnold, stripped of a little puppyism and self-conceit, for which he could be readily excused, considering the adulation showered upon him, quite sufficient to turn a stronger brain, possessed more wealth of genuine noble feeling than one out of every hundred men you meet in shallow society. Florien appreciated his sterling merit in this moment while his eyes were fixed upon her imploringly, his face flushed until it was almost handsome with enthusiasm of his subject.

She did not even hesitate in her answer,

kind but firm.

"I thank you sincerely for the honor of your preference, Mr. Arnold, but I can not love you. I can give you but one answer—no. You see, I am frank, as I am sure you wish me; I do not strive to varnish my refusal, since it must be a refusal."

'But, Miss Redesdale, take time to think I'm quite willing to wait, only, you see, I didn't want Tom, Dick and Harry to cut ahead. I'm not head over ears out of my depth yet, and I can be contented to let things go as they are till you've a chance to consider the points. I don't believe in fel lows that are ready to die for a girl and wouldn't give up their cigars if she was to Now, I'd do any thing reasonable under the sun. I'd quit the club and bil-liard playing, and all that sort of thing, if you only say the word. I would, indeed."
"I don't doubt it in the least, Mr. Arnold. You are just the man to make some goo little girl happy one of these days. But I am not a good little girl; I am a very selfwilled young lady, who-if to accept were possible-would tyrannize over you, snul you, and misuse you generally, until you'd be ready to regret your choice before the honeymoon should be passed. I'm really doing you a kindness in refusing, my dear

"I'd rather have you snub and misuse me in that way than to be adored by any other

"But I don't want a husband for the mere sake of misusing him. When I marry, I hope it may be a man whom I can love and revere through his being wiser, nobler, stronger than myself. Pardon me for saying it, but you are not such a man as I should choose. You would be true as a rock, and tender, but—but— Oh, it is quite impossible to explain myself. See, there are the Lessinghams, and Miss Day with them. Why don't you propose to her, Mr. Arnold? she would suit you far better than I"

I."
The party entered an opposite box, and

recognitions were exchanged. Meeting Aubrey's glance, Florien leaned forward, and, with a wave of her fan, beckoned him to approach. He made his excuses to his sister and her friend, and sauntered over to

"Your most devoted, Miss Redesdale, that is if any one could attain that distinction. Out in honor of La Petite Louise—she's a star of the first magnitude, they say. Arnold, do go over and keep Gerry in good humor for two minutes' time. You shouldn't grudge me that much with the whole evening before you."

evening before you."

The required change was effected with more alacrity on the Californian's part than he would have probably displayed a few moments previous.

"Have I succeeded in serving you, Miss Redesdale? I really imagined you wished

some undesirable contretemps averted."

"Broken, rather. You have accomplished it even more effectually than I had meant. What will your friends think, Mr.

Lessingham?"

"They will be satisfied with the exchange," he answered, carelessly. "Pray, don't banish me from your presence. Be grateful in remembering what you owe me, if I can't press an individual claim to your

Too late, had she wished to change matters now. The curtain went up and the play began. When it fell for the first act a half-dozen of Florien's admirers congregated from different parts of the house, but, as Mr. Hugo Arnold made no sign of returning, Aubrey still maintained his position of the side.

tion at her side.

They were alone in the box as the last act progressed. As it chanced Aubrey had seen the play before, and he derived his keenest delight now through studying the changes of his companion's expressive face.

changes of his companion's expressive face.

He had rather prided himself before this upon being unimpressible, but now he felt his heart beating in accelerated time under his white waistcoat, and there must have been something very thrillingly sweet in the voices from the stage to set his pulses throbbing at that fever gallop.

Florien was lost in the scene acting before her. One hand, from which she had removed the glove, slender and white, loosely clasping her bouquet-holder, lay temptingly near him. What an exquisite hand it was, with its rosy almond-shaped nails, not a blue vein breaking its lily fair surface. He put forth his own and touched it reverently. Florry started and turned that way—their eyes met.

What did she read in his to send that swift change over her sensitive face?

What did she read in his to send that swift change over her sensitive face? Nething more than has been mirrored in men's eyes from the day our first father opened his in ecstatic wonder upon the lovely creation sent to be his companion in beautiful Eden; only what men's eyes will mirror while earth lasts, and pure, fair women are found upon it.

It was a startled look she gave him, with

It was a startled look she gave him, with a visible pallor succeeding the faint rosy tinge upon her cheeks, and her lips compressed as though some sudden pang assailed her. For one second only, and then he was saying, in the most natural and ordinary manner:

"Pardon, but you were nearly losing your violets. Let me take charge of them

your violets. Let me take charge of them for you."

Then her eyes went back to the stage, but the play did not claim her undivided attention as before.

It was the night after the opera. Miss Day was at home and alone. The fair little creature with fluffy blonde hair had gone through a complete scale of graduated indignation during the day, beginning with the bitterly positive and ending at last with the softened comparative which a word will melt into sweet forgiveness.

Miss Day felt herself sorely aggrieved.
Mr. Aubrey Lessingham had been guilty
of an open breach of propriety. He
had deserted her at the opera on the
preceding evening, and plainly devoted
himself to her rival. He had not even uttered a word of contrition when he rejoined
them at the close of the evening. The
drive home had scarcely been enlivened by
a remark from him. Cornelia had been
dropped at her own door, and the carriage
rattled on through the deserted street while
she climbed the stair to Ler own apartment,
shivering with something more than cold,
her step lagging from something besides

fatigue.

She was oppressed with a very vivid

sense of disappointment.

Aubrey, who had been her playmate in childhood, who had carried her sachel of books over his shoulder as they trudged back and forth the same road to their respective schools; who had shared her bonbons, and taken her coasting, and been her companion—Aubrey, who had danced with her at her first party, and taken her yachting, and followed her to the mountains when she was summering there—Aubrey, whom she had come to regard as owning some sort of proprietorship in her—Aubrey was proving the brittleness of all these claims, and breaking all the old bonds. Is it any wonder that Miss Day was—to put it

mildly—discomposed?

Her maid was waiting for her, nodding over a novel under the gas-lights. The novel was thrust hastily away, and the girl came forward, appearing very preternaturally wide awake, to disrobe her young mistress. The shimmering pink silk and foamy point were thrown impatiently off; the clusters of moss rosebuds were disengaged from the fair locks. Cornelia suspected what was the actual truth, they had been donned and worn in vain. Shimmering silks and clustering buds had not even stamped themselves upon his attention; he had not observed them at all.

It was quite too vexatious for Miss Day's accustomed equanimity. She snapped at her maid and dismissed her, then thrust her little feet into slippers, and flung herself spitefully into a chair. Even rosy angels with blonde fluffs will do such things under strong provocation.

An opening of the flood-gates, a sudden rush of the briny tears, had relieved her overcharged feelings somewhat; she went to bed knowing that she could not sleep a wink, and in five minutes—slept. But she rot up miserable.

Aubrey had disappointed her. He deserved bitter censure, and he had lost her favor forever. She would never, never, NEVER forgive him. Perhaps, after all, he was not so much to blame. That Miss Redesdale had certainly beckoned to him; Aubrey was so good-natured, there was no doubt but she had imposed upon him. Would he call during the morning, she wondered—would he apologize? He should find that she did not overlook such a slight

very readily. What a long, tedious day it was—he was in the bank, of course, and could not come before evening. It was unreasonable of her to expect it. What a praiseworthy young man he was, too. Devoting himself so steadily to business, and doing so well, people said. It would be a pity should any blighting of hopes start him in the dissipated ways so prevalent with men of the times.

Evening. A little anxious flutter under a very careful toilet. She would judge his contrition by the time of his arrival. If he was there by eight, she would not be hard with him. The room was full of melowed light, the piano was open, and his favorite music at hand, a vase of hot-house flowers diffused their fragrance upon the air.

Eight o'clock! The silvery chimes died away in musical echoes. Cornelia shut her teeth in a close grip, and crossing the floor, turned on the gas to dazzling brightness. A quick throb of her heart, and an expectant light flooding her face as the bell rung one moment later.

Another disappointment. The man who answered the door brought her a package and a note from Geraldine, and the latter ran:

"My Darling: The book I promised you. I meant to send Aubrey around with it, but he is engaged for the evening at the Redesdales of course. In great haste, Gerry."

That was the end of her hopes. Little Miss Day did not often act upon impulse. She had a placid temperament, and had been well schooled by that great equalizer—modern society. But now that unlucky book went spinning across the floor to rest in the shadow of a corner sofa, and the little white teeth were sunk viciously into the red under lip. This small ebullition of temper would doubtless have been supplemented in another moment by a burst of mortified tears, with the result of a miserable solitary evening above stairs, but another ring and the entrance of a visitor turned the channel.

It was Mr. Arnold appearing upon the scene.

His evening at the opera had not been calculated to inspire cheerfulness, but he was not so depressed by it as might be imagised. He was not hopelessly in love with Florien. He had expressed his case very aptly, by saying that he made his sudden declaration to prevent "some other fellow cutting in ahead," and to know his own prospects of success before becoming more deeply enamored. His mind was at rest on that score now, and all day he had been revolving the question Florry carelessly put

"There is Miss Day—why don't you propose to her?"

"She's a sweet, pretty little thing, and plenty good enough for me," had been his conclusion. "I'll do it—hanged if I don't!"
And he did before the evening was over.
Not without a little pang of regret as he thought of Florry, and a half-wish after the words were fairly uttered that he could recall them

And Cornelia, with a few blushes, accepted him on the spot. Not, however, without a silent wish that he was taller and handsomer, more graceful and refined, more, in fact, like Aubrey.

The affair was very neatly consummated, and the diamond ring which the California prince had purchased with the hope of placing it upon Florien's finger, sparkled a charming fit on Cornella's dimpled hand. She could not forbear saying, as she suraved it.

veyed it:
"I really never suspected that you cared any thing for me, Hugo. I thought you were like all the rest, captivated by that handsome Miss Redesdale."
"I did come near making a speed of my-

"I did come near making a spoon of myself there—by Jove! I did," he answered, with more frank ingenuity than many others might have done.

And that was all Cornelia ever knew how

near he had come to it.

CHAPTER XVII.

AN EMBARRASSING CHARGE.

The engagement was made public without delay. The pretty little bride-elect was the envy of the feminine world for a day, or of the part of it that had angled after the wealthy San Franciscan.

But she was a general favorite, and all

But she was a general favorite, and all united in declaring her quite worthy of her good fortune. They were to be married in March, take a wedding-trip through the Southern States, and continue it in May by a voyage around the Cape, and so on to his far Western home.

The trousseau was already under way, and in the excitement of fitting dresses and receiving the congratulations of her friends, Miss Day became very pleasurably reconciled to her destiny as the future Mrs. Arnold.

Florien, in one of her drives, a day or two after the announcement of the existing state of affairs, espied the groom-elect upon the sidewalk, and stopping the carriage, beckoned him to approach.

"Come, Mr. Arnold, take a seat, do. I'm

driving quite at random and will set you down anywhere you choose. I've been wanting to offer my congratulations since I heard the news. You're an exceedingly wise man, Mr. Arnold, and a happy one, I am sure."

am sure."
"Thanks. I thought I couldn't do better than to take your advice, Miss Redesdale. Yes, I am a happy man, and I'd be deuced ungrateful to be any thing else with that little blossom from the 'rosebud garden of girls.' I couldn't get the queen of 'em all, but I've done the next best thing. And I

owe it all to you, too."
"Didn't I say I was doing a kindness when I refused you? If I were not something of an anomaly among my kind, I would certainly begin to realize the meaning of the words, 'It might have been.'
Not leaving already?"

"I wouldn't but I see Lynne yonder, and I owe him a balance of some hundreds, I think. He's one of the gamest hands with the cards I ever ran across, Miss Redesdale—took a cool thousand at a clear stretch the other night. They say the colonel's one too much for him, though. There, I don't suppose you care for club-room gossip, but I wanted you to know that I've got my whole crop of wild oats in. 'Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind,' you know, but I'm going to stop in time to spare myself the blast."

"A wise course, and I esteem you more than ever for knowing it. But you are mistaken; I do like to hear club-room gosip once in a while; it's the only means we have of learning the stuff our gentlemen friends are made of. Do you know, I think we are woefully deceived in them some-

times. For instance, I didn't suspect that

Mr. Lynne gambled."

"No?" Mr. Arnold's elevated brows betokened surprise. "That's because you've no brother to keep the run of these things, and give you a glimpse of the inside track. Why, Lynne comes very near being a professional at it, only saved by being so fortunate as to spring from a family and wear a name, you see—that kills the worst flavor of what we call an adventurer. Bless your heart, Miss Redesdale, every young man will be a little wild at some time, but it's sharps like Lynne that play the very mischief with us. We can hang away from out-and-outers like Marquestone, but to be hand and glove with a fellow of your own set that knows the tricks and has backers—

as Lynne has-is too much for common

""Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind," mused Florien, as she lay back in
the carriage and was driven home. "Is
that the end Walter is attaining? I will not
judge him, though, without an impartial
hearing. It is strange that he never mentions
business beyond speaking vaguely of transactions on Wall street, and less than two
years ago he was so sanguine of fighting his
way, gaining a footing for himself he said,
before he should urge his claim upon me.
Poor Walter! he may have found it harder
work than he thought. And that is the influence Colonel Marquestone exerts over
him—but it must be a mistake. I will not
think so ill of him. He has been discouraged, hard pressed perhaps, and found temporary relief at the gaming-table. Few
men but find themselves there at some time,
and he has not been an exception; but a
professional gambler, a decoy as Mr. Arnold
hinted, surely it is not possible."

hinted; surely it is not possible."

But Florry was disturbed more than she admitted even to herself. Reared in the atmosphere of Miss Deb's severe moral ty, she could not regard leniently, as many girls of her age might have done, such a digres-ion from strict honorable principle. She could not think with other than abhorrence of the mean hypocrisy covered by the word adventurer, as Arnold had applied it. To be a professional gambler in her mind was synonymous with an agent for blighting hopes, ruining homes, and blackening lives—even worse than that, responsible for lives, since the victims were often laid in

suicides' graves.
"I shall ask Walter and find out the truth the very first opportunity which presents," she said, to herself.

The opportunity was not long coming. Somebody who made pretensions to that "little learning which makes us wondrous wise," gave a conversazione that night. It was a stupid affair, as such affairs generally are, but thanks to the training she had received from Madame Molyneux, Florien got through the evening, and added something to her already-established reputation for cleverness.

There was one recherche feature introduced, however, and that was the supper; indeed, it is to be questioned if that was not the single inducement half the people there found for assembling. Florien had come, chaperoned by her stepmamma, who considered her duty done when she saw the young lady safely engrossed by an astute man of letters who was charmed to find in her an intelligent listener, pertinent in questioning, and able at repartee. This gentleman had succeeded in warding off the intruders who would have engaged her from time to time, but at the very moment the company were passing down to the supper-room—the time of all others he should have been at hand—the redoubtable knight of many degrees was nowhere to be seen. It was an embarrassing position, for nowhere in sight was a masculine acquaintance who was disengaged. Most opportunely, Walter, who had come late, saw her from a distance and pressed his way to her side

"Allow me. I wouldn't have faced the stupidity of the affair but I hoped to find you here. I have a better recompense than those poor devils who have been yawning through the entire evening. Let me bring you some Moselle, Florien; your nerves must need stimulating by this time.

"An ice? Here it is; and here is a

"An neer Here it is; and here is a charming little alcove where you can eat it in peaceful seclusion, thanks to the chance which leaves it unoccupied."

Florien leaned back, her spoon poised

Florien leaned back, her spoon poised daintily above the saucer, her earnest eyes regarding him in a speculative way. Someway her steady, penetrating glances always resulted in disconcerting him, so now he cut this one short with a half-nervous laugh.

"Am I not 'got up to order,' Florien?

that you look at me so? Pre been in such depths of despondency that you must pardon any omissions. Do eat your 'frozen mist rose-tinged,' and let me offer you a meringue."

"Thank you, Walter, nothing more after such chilly vapors. I like to be frozen to proper severity when I have a task of duty

to perform."

"I almost imagined you meant to rake me over the coals for something. Do relieve my active apprehensions. Put it as strong as you like, for I'm intending to revenge myself by a special pleading after all's over."

"After all's over." Words idly spoken,

but Florry took them up. "It may not be very long before all is over."

"Florry, how can you be so cruel-hearted! If I thought there was any chance of that I—I'd put a bullet straight through my

brain. Precious little the world might lose through the process, too."

There was something savagely earnest in his tones, and the words cut off short between his teeth. Florien looked at him with almost a sigh.

"You do really love me, Walter?"

"What mockery to ask it. Love! I worship, idolize you! If to possess you and be loved by you during my lifetime doomed me to torture through all eternity, I would gladly welcome the fate. It's just the opposite though—whatever I come to be you will make me. Under your guidance, and strengthened by your sweet affection, I shall not disappoint your fondest hones. Florien"

hopes, Florien."

"Oh, Walter, it is so easy to promise for the future. But what of the present?"

"The present? It seems to be a season of trial more or less always. A summer day with its clouds and sunshine. You know what is required to make it all sun-

shine for me."

"I know what you mean, Walter; can you look me in the eyes and declare your willingness that I should know all the acts of your life for the last eighteen months? Have you been honest and upright and pure enough to lay it all bare to the woman you are to marry?"

A very serious light was in the eyes fixed so intently upon him, a very grave shade upon the fair face turned toward him. Who had been maligning him to her?—what had she heard, he wondered? He had a very uncomfortable sensation of chills creeping up his back, and impeded respiration. That very day he had put off one of his most urgent creditors by a hint that he was soon to take to himself wealthy bride. He was most impatiently waiting his time to urge her to a speedy consummation of the engagement. Had that open disregard of her injunction come to her ears already? Whatever it might be, there was no way for it except to face out the result.

"No, 'pon honor, Florry, I don't think I should like you to know every act of mine. We all do vastly foolish and inconsiderate things at times, and I can't suppose that I've acted wisely and well during even the eighteen months since you made me blessed with the promise of your hand. I throw myself upon your merey there. I don't suppose even you would be willing to drag out to exposure all the events you've taken a part in during that length of time.

"That is not the sense in which I ask you, Walter. I have not been trying to mystify you, and I shall make my meaning perfectly lucid. I have been told that you gamble—is it so?"

"Well if it is related than 2 Potter you."

"Well, if it is, what then? Better men have done worse things."

"Perhaps, but you were stigmatized as a professional gambler—worse than that, a decoy. That you made it a purpose to lure your friends where they should be made your victims—or victims of others who remunerated you for the service."

He was listening with hardly-forced composure, fearful that more was to come. But to Florry he seemed quietly assured, with a smile playing about his lips.

"What other sins in the catalogue have been accredited to me, or is that all?"

"Is it true, Walter?"

"Do you believe it, Florien?" Her face reflected her doubt as she strove to read his, impassive as a mask. She parted her lips as if to reply, and then glanced down without uttering a word. She remembered how direct her information had been, and in a measure how con-

"I see that you do. Oh, Florry, little Florry, who promised to trust me always, whatever should betide, are you to fail me with all the rest?"

Such a pathetic voice, burdened with such tender reproach! It brought the quick tears into Florry's eyes, and did more to re-establish her shaken trust in him than any other appeal he could have made.
"Tell me that it is not true, Walter."

"It is not true." "You have not gambled?"

"Ah, there you have me. I have been discouraged and I have gambled. I was in a hurry to be rich to have something to of-fer you besides myself, and somehow I seemed always to be unfortunate in busi-

"What is your business, Walter? How

have you been trying to make yourself more acceptable to me?"

"My dear child, what use of troubling your brain with such matters? I'll hunt up my books of receipts and expenses for the last year and go over them with you if you see fit, and I don't believe I can satisfy you without. I've just simply watched my chances and done what I could on Wall street in stocks and bonds, and the like. Heavens! to see the fortunes that change hands there every day, week in and week out. Why, there have been times, with the proper means at command, that I could become a millionaire in a morning. It's this thing of dabbling with dollars where I want thousands that keeps me

"Gambling on a more extensive scale," said Florry, dryly. "It's nothing but that,

"It's a game of chance, like every other thing in the world. What would you have me do-labor by the sweat of my brow for my daily crust, and see you as far placed above me as the stars are above the earth? Florien, won't you understand that what I've done has been for the sake of shortening the time I must wait before I can insist on the fulfillment of your promise? You know that I love you for yourself onlythat I loved you before you knew of your own fortune. If it wasn't for dooming you to privation, I would wish it never had

come to you, since it is to be a bar between

"It is not, Walter. You know that it is not. I am not so mercenary as that. You know that when I do marry you, all I have shall be freely at your command as it is at my own. It was not for the money-making part of it that I wanted to see you follow some business and make your own way up. Only active and actual experience will expand a man's best qualities and bring out his nobility of heart and feeling. Your own promptings of independence, too, dic-tated the same course, but you know that while you should be simply unfortunate, I would not permit a shade of difference to be made in our plans on that account. While you struggle honestly against odds, you really deserve greater credit than in succeeding where there is no obstacle in the way; but when you resort to dishonor-able—well, then, questionable means to promote yourself, you forfeit that sterling principle which no worldly wealth can re-

You dear little preacher, what a sermon you have given me! You're awfully straight up and down on these points. I don't pretend to defend gambling—that was our original split, wasn't it?—but I've done nothing more than ninety-nine out of every hundred men you meet have done along with me. I don't suppose I could name a half-dozen out of my entire circle of acquaintances who are not found at the tables once in a while-strictly moral men whom you would never suspect of stepping outside their beaten routine of trade, as well as wild young blades who are flush of pocket-money.

We are wandering from the main point, Walter. I don't want to discuss the vic I want to know if you are addicted to it." And I assure you that I am not.

After their protracted discussion, during which he had regained his assurance, he was prepared to answer with all apparent frankness in the manner he knew would most readily allay her suspicions, and without the slightest regard for truth.

'You-I'm ashamed to ask it, Walteryou never did act the despicable part of a

"Never, upon my sacred honor!"
How sacred Walter Lynne held his honor

can be imagined, but the reply satisfied

Forien.

"Just one thing more—you will not gamble again? Don't, please. And—and—if you should need money, Walter, come

to me, but don't resort to that again."
"My dear, generous little girl! You unsophisticated child, don't you know I could only accept any thing from you in one

"You haven't promised me." He hesitated, just enough to give weight to the required bond.

"I do promise, Florien, because you wish it. I will never gamble again. I'm a re-formed man from this moment, if it is reforming to forsake a vice which has never fastened upon one. If you'd only consent to be my mentor from this time out— What can I say to persuade you to relent,

What he might have said, or what she might have answered, must be classed with unsolved mysteries. There was a sweep and rustle of silken draperies, the curtains shrouding their retreat were parted, and Mrs. Redesdale stood before them.

"Florry, child, the carriage is awaiting us. Can't we put you down at your own door, Mr. Lynne? Oh, no trouble, I assure

"He would have overcome her scruples in five minutes more," the lady mused, "and had her name the wedding-day. That would have been awkward. How fortunate I chanced to be within earshot. (To be continued-commenced in No. 149.)

The Rock Rider:

THE SPIRIT OF THE SIERRA, A TALE OF THE THREE PARKS.

BY FREDERICK WHITTAKER, AUTHOR OF "THE RED RAJAH," "THE ENIGHT OF THE RUBIES," "DOUBLE-DEATH," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XXX.

CATO. CLEAR and bright broke the dawn over the romantic South Park the morning after the storm. The mist that filled the valley was thicker than ever, but when the sun cleared it up the scene was beautiful. Every

leaf and flower held its gem, and the songs of birds filled the groves.

The Indians had disappeared entirely from the valley, but a trail of dead bodies showed what a merciless slaughter had pursued them during the previous night, even through storm and darkness, to the passes

The corral of wagons still remained where it had been, but the fires of a numerous body of cavalry soldiers dotted the greensward around the pool that had so long mocked the defenders of the train, and rewarded all their sufferings with its cool

High up on the mountain-side, in the western Sierra, old Black Cato was standing at the mouth of the gorge that led to the Cavern of Death, watching with wonder and alarm the progress of a riderless mule that was coming up the pass toward bing.

"Golly sakes alive!" muttered the negro; "wurra dat fur? Dat ole Mountaineer come back all alone, and whar's marse Cappen Beckford? Hyar he been done gone fur two days, and nebber a word come to ole Cato, and now hyar come Mountaineer all alone. Suffin' must 'a' happened to marse cappen. Mebbe he want Cato, and send Mountaineer to fotch him. Whar's on come from ole cal?

It was strange all this time Cato seemed to have no suspicion that any thing more than a mere slight accident had happened to his master. Danger he seemed not to think of. His confidence in that master's prowess was too complete and unswerving.

And now he waited quietly for the mule to come up, anticipating some message from the hand of his beloved captain. Such messages had come to him before.

The mule walked slowly up, and as she

came close, began to bray as if in recogni-

"Ha! ole gal, you knows Cato!" ex-claimed the negro. "He gibs you de nice wile oats, don't he? an' you want moah. Well, you shall hab'um, ole gal, so you shall. Now what news you bring?

The mule came up and rubbed her head against the negro, who cast a hasty glance at the deep Mexican saddle That glance was sufficient for Cato.

The next instant he uttered a sort of yell of anguish, and tore his hair in despair. The whole of the left side of the saddle from pommel to cantle, was soaked in blood which had freshly dried there, and present-

ed clear evidence of harm to his master. Cato fell on his knees in a moment, with the pious habits of his race, and prayed aloud with fervor, strangely mixed with despair.

Oh, Lord, whaf for you done dis? Oh, Lord, please don't take away good, sweet marse cappen from po' Cato! Oh, wurra is I gwine to do, ef marse cappen's dead? Whar shall I go? Wurra is I to do? Oh, marse cappen, marse cappen, don't you done go die, 'way from po' Cato! Little Missy Evy she gone, missis she gone, an' is you gwine, too, to leave po' Cato? Oh, it can't be! It shan't be! I'se gwine arter him, ef it kills Mountaineer. Oh, Mountaineer, good ole gal! take me to marse cappen, do! Dat's a good ole gal, and I gibs you all de corn you wants fo' you' life, ef you does it, shuah!"

He jumped up from his knees with nervous hurry, as he said the last words, and tightened the mule's girths. Mountaineer seemed to know what was required of her, for she turned round and trotted off with Cato as cheerfully as if fresh from a stable, and soon brought him into the valley of the South Park, by the same glade where Belcour had found Eclair, two days before.

Cato was quite unaware of the changes that had taken place in the valley the previous night. The driving storm had drowned the sounds of the rifle-shots, and he knew not but what the Indians were still there. In any event, he had only one object in view, and that was to see his master, and die with him if need be. Cato was one of the old type of slaves, faithful to death; and to him and his master, buried in those solitudes for thirteen years, the war and its resulting emancipation were entirely un-

His surprise then was no greater than his joy, at seeing the valley clear of foes, and the United States flag floating over the wa-

gons in the corpal.
"Oh, bress de Lord!" cried Cato. "Meb-

be marse cappen not dead, affah all. Dar de deah ole flag once moah, an' de sojers what Cato nebber see no moah for ten, twenty yeah. Oh, bress de Lord! I'se gwine to see marse Cappen Beckford once moah, like a real cappen on a hoss, not on dem po' trash of mules. An' den I gets Mountaineer, mebbe."

The revulsion in his spirits was as great as

had been the depression. For a moment he had forgot the ominous blood-stains on Mountaineer's saddle, and rejoiced at the sight of arms, as none but an old camp-fol-lower can do. He galloped into the camp, with a broad grin on his black face, show-ing every tooth in his lead, with delight,

"Bress de Lord, oh my soul! Whar's marse Cappen Beckford? Oh, gemmens, isn't I glad to see ye, jest? Oh, whar's marse Cappen Beckford? Somebody tell me, or I'se gwine to bu'st!"

The soldiers looked up laughing from the fire, and a roar of merriment spread through the camp, as the grotesque-looking negro, in his garb of skins, mounted on the scraggy mule, careered through the camp.

But Mountaineer appeared to know where she was going, for she held on stead-ily till she halted by a fire where a group of

officers were standing.

Cato jumped off as the officers turned round, and peered anxiously into the face

of every one there. Then he turned away disappointed, muttering:

"He'm not dar. Whar de debbil is he?"

"Here, my man, what do you want?" asked a stern voice, as Colonel Davis beck-

asked a stern voice, as Colonel Davis beckoned him forward from the group.

Instantly, as with the long forgotten habit of discipline, Cato doffed his cap respectfully, and stood twiddling it between his hands, as he hesitatingly said:

"Please, marse colonel, I'se come to—see, marse colonel—ef I kin find ole marse Cappen Beckford 'mong you gemmen—I begs parding, gemmen—"

The colonel advanced eagerly a pace, and laid both hands on Cato's shoulders, whom he scrutinized attentively.

he scratinized attentively.

Then he let go and muttered:

"My God! It's Cato! Alive and well!

Wonders will never cease."

"Yes, marse colonel," said Cato, doubt-

res, marse coloner, said cato, doubtfully, respect struggling with a desire to recognize the other, "Cato is 'live, sah, but I doesn't quite 'zactly 'member you, sah.' 'Scuse me, sah."

"What, Cato, have you forgotten Lieu-

tenant Davis, you rascal? Don't you remember who caught you stealing his whisky, and kicked you down the quartermaster's steps?" asked the colonel, with a half-laugh at the recollection.

Cato changed instantly, and set up a counter-yell of his own laughter.

"Oh, now I recklex, marse Davis. Golly! on, now reckiex, marse Davis! An' how we black fellers got square for dat kickin', de ve'y nex' day! Yah! yah! yah! marse Davis, how you did go on, shuah, when you foun' all you' hams and chickens gone, an' nobody do'no' nuffin 'bout it, oh, no—'twar de coyotes as steal 'um. Yah! yah! yah!' The kowl of husebter with which Cott

The howl of laughter with which Cato greeted the remembrance was contagious. t set all the officers laughing in turn, whether they understood the joke or not, and the stout colonel laughed as loud as any. But Cato suddenly remembered his manners, and pulled up short with remarkable promptness.

"Beg parding, marse Davis," he observed, "but I'se forgot. Does you know whar marse Cappen Beckford is, sah? I'se come fo' to see him." The colonel's countenance instantly grew

grave. A sudden, painful memory seemed to come over him, and he said, kindly:
"Your master is dangerously wounded, Cato, and he lies in yonder tent, attended by my daughter. Go to him at once, and some other time you shall tell me how you escaped when we thought you frozen to

death, and where you and your master have been all these years."

Of all this address Cato only seemed to realize the first sentence. He stood stupid-

ly, muttering:
"Dange'ously wooned. Oh, Heavenly
Fader! Wurra dat for?"
But he seemed to understand where to

go, for he moved off slowly toward a large wall-tent, pitched close to the wagons, and raising the flap, entered, to find his beloved master extended on a camp-bed, pale and half asleep, with blood-stained bandages on his left thigh, while a pretty young lady sat watching by the bedside, weeping softly to

Cato uttered a low grean of mortal grief and terror at that sight, and poor Beckford

opened his eyes. Those eyes had lost the wild, excited look they formerly wore, and large, dark and serious, they gazed on Cato, as the wounded man said, in a low voice:

'The dream has come true, Cato, but not as I thought. I shall soon see Evy now, but it will be in heaven, for my eyes are opened, and I am dying.

Cato dropped on his knees and burst into a tempest of convulsive sobs as the wounded captain spoke.

CHAPTER XXXI.

RED LIGHTNING'S STORY. COLONEL DAVIS was standing thoughtfully gazing at the fire. He had regained one of his daughters, but the other was as yet missing. His only clew to her where-abouts was the statement of Belcour, who had told him of the mysterious disappearance of Blanche Davis, when he himself was struck down senseless by the Indians. Belcour and Brinkerhoff had gone off that very morning with Somers and Buford to explore the glen where the wonderful Spirit of the Sierra had been first seen, and little Yakop had accompanied them, in the hope that canine sagacity might discover a

where human wisdom failed. The bluff colonel, full of concealed impatience, was yet to all outward appearance impassive and calm, while awaiting the result of their discoveries, and listening attentively for the rifle-shot that was to be

the signal that they had arrived at the glen.
In the mean time he issued the necessary orders for patrolling the valley and the neighboring passes, to guard against an-noyance from any lurking Indians who might be disposed to avenge their recent discomfiture. There were some twenty prisoners, besides—among them the Co-manche chief, Red Lightning, who had been badly wounded in the charge the night before—and the colonel wished to

examine them. He sent for Red Lightning, and the chief

eve was as bright and clear, his face as calm and impassive, as if he was free from pain. His voice, too, though low and husky, was perfectly steady, and he answered the officer's questions like one not afraid to die. The colonel had been long enough on the plains to talk all the Indian

"Red Lightning," said the colonel, in his gruff but by no means unkindly tones, "I am sorry to meet you here. The great father trusted you as a chief of your tribe, and you have received many pre-

Red Lightning smiled faintly.

"If I have done wrong, kill me," was all he said. "Red Lightning is not afraid to

"You are dying now," said Colonel Davis, sternly. "It is the end of all bad Indians, Who tempted you on this warpath?" "The Comanche is poor, and needs

"And you thought to take them from a train guarded by the soldiers of the great father? See what you have got by it. Where is Cochise? He was with you, and there were Cheyennes among the dead."

An expression of energ fitted ecross Red.

An expression of anger flitted across Red "The Apaches are howling coyotes," he said. "Cochise is great in talk, but he flees when there is work to be done. Had the Apaches seconded us, I should not be here

now at your mercy."

Colonel Davis looked earnestly at the Indian. A sudden thought came into his head as he asked:

head as he asked:

"And the Cheyennes, what did they?"

"The Cheyennes were no use, for their chief was dead. Keche-ah-que-kono fell by the lance of the Black Spirit that rose among the rocks. They feared the Spirits of the Sierrra, and shrunk from the contest. I alone had the heart big enough to meet him, and I shot him down."

"Was Keche-ah-que-kono the Cheyenne

"Was Keche ah-que-kono the Cheyenne chief?" asked Colonel Davis, in a tone of interest. "See here, Red Lightning, you know now who the Black Spirit, as you call him, was, and you remember when the captain shot his wife and daughter, for your band visited us the day before. Tell me what became of the child, and I give you

your liberty."
Red Lightning looked at the other. "It is too late, white chief," he said. "Red Lightning is on the way to the hunting grounds of his fathers, and the white medicine-men can not stop him. Kecheah-que-kono was a dog, and did the deed of
a coyote. He bit the hand that had fed
him. No Comanche ever did that."

"Tell me, then," said the colonel, anx-

iously, "do you know what became of the Keche sold her to the Apaches, and

she lived with them for two years," said the chief. "Then she escaped, along with the Black Father."

"The Black Father! who was he?"

"The Black Father! who was he?"
"The Black Father who spoke big words
from the Great Spirit. He came from the
East, all alone, and taught the Apaches
many wonderful things. But he told Cochise that he must stop taking scalps, and
Cochise wanted to kill him, but was afraid,
herange the warriors loved him. But one because the warriors loved him. But one night the Black Father was missing, and with him went the little white flower. No man has ever seen them since.' While the colonel was musing in silence

over this strange story, and trying to iden-tify this "Black Father," that the chief spoke of (probably some Roman Catholic missionary from the description), the sound of a rifle-shot echoed from the gorge in the sierra above them.
With an instinctive start, the old colonel

turned to look up. There was the tremendous gap illuminated by a flood of early sunlight, which made a glittering rainbow of the waterfall at the end, and shone upon the group of four fig-

ures clustered above it. The four searchers were at the foot of the fall, and simultaneously with the rifle-shot, out on the stunted tree in the midst of the precipice started the light, fairy-like figure

(To be continued-Commenced in No. 145.)

Significance of Hair .-- Hair parting naturally in the middle, and falling over the temple, as it generally does in women and sometimes in men, indicates the feminine element; in a man symmetry and beauty of soul—genius of a certain kind, which implies the feelings of the woman combined with the thought of the man. It is a very common characteristic among poets and artists, as seen in Homer, Virgil, Shakspeare, Milton, Goethe, Dante, Raphael, Titian, Handel, Mozart, Tasso, Chaucer, Keats, Burns, Hoffman, Longfellow and others. In pictures of Christ, and in other exalted, highly refined and beautiful characters, this peculiarity is always introduced by the

Sometimes the hair, on rising from its bulbs, turns in irregular rings on the fore-head, giving an open air to the physiognomy. This indicates good nature, as well as exuberant vitality. Crinkled and wavy,

and close curling hair indicates vivacity and excitability, if not brilliancy.

Regular curls symbolize ideality, and, when only part of the hair is worn in curls, are instinctively disposed over the organ of

Straight hair may be said to indicate in cultivated persons evenness of character and a straightforward honesty of purpose, as well as a clear head and good natural

The dark-haired races are physically the strongest, but less endowed intellectually than the fair-haired. The first are more inclined to manual labor and active exercise, and the last to mental exertion. The dark races are workers, the light races thinkers, poets, artists, etc.

Black hair indicates strength, and predominance of the bilious tempera in the Spaniard, the Malay, the Mexican, the Indian, and the negro.

Red hair is a sign of ardor, passion, intensity of feeling, and purity of character, and goes with the sanguine temperament, as in the Scotch, the Irish, the Swede, the Dane,

etc., etc. Auburn hair is found most frequently in connection with the lymphatic tempera-ment, and indicates delicacy and refinement of taste, and, if the mind be cultivated, fine moral and intellectual power. It is common among the Germans, the Danes, and Anglo-Saxons.

Dark brown hair combines the strength was brought up on a stretcher. He had been shot through the lungs, not far from the heart, and had not long to live; yet his things considered, the most desirable. TO ADVERTISERS.

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When a man who is a mortal, no matter how strong, Gets reckless, and thoughtlessly does me a wrong, Far better for him had he died when a child, For I wreak on him vengeance most fearful and wild.

Not there on the spot with a crowd standing by, With the chances of losing a nose or an eye, Or to have my ear punched for a very big ring, And go round for a week with my head in a sling;

But I lie on my bed when the evening is dim, And picture most horrible forments to him; (In fancy) I kick him the length of the street, Or cut him all up into little mince-meat; Or I roast him an hour on a very hot fire. And oh! I how his moanings and shrieks I admire! Then I beat him until he's in need of repairs, And tumble him down six or eight pairs of stairs;

For two or three nights this course I pursue, Till I think the poor fellow has got his full due, Except when the injury done me is stronger, And then I continue a night or two longer.

In this way I get satisfaction complete, And there never was any revenge half so sweet; Besides, it is cheap, and then it is plain That fellow will never insult you again.

Jed Coffin's Revenge. A TRUE STORY OF 1812.

BY LAUNCE POYNTZ.

II. THE year passed on, and then the next, and no news of the Reprisal came to old Joe Macy. The old man was not so fortunate these two years as he had been in the past. He seemed to be bitten with the privateering mania, and embarked a good deal of money in vessels. And the worst of

it was, it never came back.

The British raised the blockade of Boston, and only left the Shannon to watch the place, and one of Joe Macy's brigs must needs try a pair of heels with the Shannon out to sea, instead of running into shoal

water. Then the brig got gobbled. Soon after, an English seventy-four fooled another of his cruisers by disguising herself as a merchantman, and luring the little vessel to range under her quarter, be-

fore she opened her ports.

Now, Joe Macy's fortune was not such a great one for these days, though they called him a rich man in 1814, and the loss of two handsome brigs, known to be gone, with the total disappearance of the most expen-sive venture of the three, the Reprisal, cut down the poor man's fortune from fifty thousand dollars to just nothing at last. And then he had a disappointment about

Marion and young Gerry. Spite of his efforts, the girl wouldn't cotton to New York's youthful blood; and the young man, who, to do him justice, was very much in love with Marion, turned huffy at last at her repeated snubbings, and left Boston for his native place, where he married the beautiful Miss Bibby, who hadn't a rap to

And when old Joe Macy scolded his daughter for her having let the elegant Gerry depart, she only tossed her head, and

Let him go, father. You remember what I told you, when you insulted poor Captain Coffin for no harm but amusing a girl. If the Reprisal never comes back, I'die an old maid."

'Why, good heavens, girl! are you mad? Why, good neavens, girl' are you made. What can you see in that rough sailor to like; you, whom I've brought up like a lady, with advantages I never had—hey?"

"I see a man of my father's class," she answered, with spirit; "who won't think had a honoring me too highly by wedding me

he's honoring me too highly by wedding me, as your fine New York gentleman showed me. And, besides that, I see a man whom you were not ashamed to send to danger to earn money for you, though you were ashamed to see him in your drawing-room, and insulted him for—nothing."

And here she swept out of the room with wonderful dignity, leaving the old captain to indulge in quarter-deck language, all to himself. For the fact was, Marion was a young lady of decided firmness, not to say obstinacy, and it was principally out of opposition that she maintained this tone with her father. Had he not been rude to his best captain, and accused her of being in love with the stalwart sailor, she might never have thought of the latter again. As it was, hearing him abused all the time, she made a deity out of the absent, just to show her independence. But the estrangement did not last long between father and child. When losses came, and poor Captain Macy found himself a beggar at seventy-eight, Marion seemed to pluck up new spirit un-der each blow. The house was sold at auction, and the Macys moved into a small dwelling, where the old captain might have

starved but for his brave daughter. Marion it was whose busy hands were at work from dawn till dark, and Marion it was who proved the prop and stay of her

father's declining days.

The vessels were gone, and one of them had disappeared entirely.

The war went on, and ended in peace and still no signs of the lost Reprisal. And still Marion comforted her father and told him that he would yet see his venture back

"For I know from Captain Coffin's face, papa, that he was never made to fail. You'll see him yet."

The old sailor shook his head mournfully and doubted, but, sure enough, one day. after peace had been proclaimed over six months, in walked long Jed Coffin one morning, as they sat at breakfast in their little cottage, and saluted them with:
"How du, Cap? How du, Miss Marion?

I've been a pesky time a-comin', but I couldn't help it. The Reprisal's at the bot tom of the sea, sir, but we saved our hides.' And then old Macy saw that his last hope of fortune was gone, and he rose from the table with trembling limbs and shook the

other's hand, saying:
"Never mind, Jed. The boys were saved. You can tell her all about it. I'm going out, for I don't-feel-well."

And the old man left the room abruptly to hide his feelings.

Jed Coffin looked after him with a queer twinkle in his eye, and then remarked

'I s'pose I mout as well sit down to tell-hey, Miss?" And Marion instantly answered: "Yes."
Then she rose up, and bustled about to wash up and put away the breakfast things, her heart very full of emotions. She had counted with a vague confidence on Coffin's return, but not as a disappointed, shipwrecked man; and she found it hard to give up the visions of returning comfort which had flashed up on his entrance. But she said nothing till all was cleared away.

Then she sat down on a little ottoman, covered with chintz, and made out of an old box, which was all the reminder of her old splendors left, took out her knitting, and demurely said:

"Now, Mr. Coffin, please tell me every thing."

thing."
And Jed Coffin complied. He was no longer awkward and bashful now. On the contrary, he took possession of three chairs, on which he tilted himself back in an attitude of luxurious ease, before he began his

story.

"It's a mighty hard thing, they tell me, Miss Marion, to come down to livin' in one room, when ye've had twenty. But it's jist as hard to lose a vessel ye love, when she's behaved like a reg'lar snoozer. That'ere Reprisal was just the sweetest little craft ever a feller trod, and she could walk away from e'er a frieste in King George's nevy from e'er a frigate in King George's navy like a witch. We ran down to the West Injies, and jist played old Cain with their traders, the first summer, taking prize after prize, till a hull fleet came arter us and chased us out. Then we ran down to the Horn, and went into the Pacific, beat up the whalers, and got chased out by two British frigates, the time they took the Essex. But that warn't the last of the little clipper. We went across toward Chiny and Injy, and tuk tu Injamen thar afore we heard that peace war a-goin' to be concluded. And so then we pulled foot for old Borsting once more, and would 'a' got in here all safe ef it hadn't been for gettin'. caught in a tornado off St. Kitts. That there storm strained the little barky so that she leaked a stream. We rode the storm out, but we had to leave her in the boats two days arter. And the last we saw of the Reprisal she went down headforemost in five hundred fathoms of water."

There was a short silence, when Marion inquired, in a low tone:
"And did you save much?"

Jed Coffin tilted back his chair, and seed up, with a quizzical grin, at the ceiling.
"Wal, I reckon we saved our prize and yer father's share's about money rather, and yer father's share's about a hundred thousand dollars. We warn't sich fools as to leave that behind in calm

blotch upon the dead dry grass rustling under his feet. Therese wondered if it was the sudden shadow succeeding which made the handsome fair face look so ghastly for a moment. It was all her own quick imagination, of course, for he laughed a mo-ment afterward, and caught her little olive hand to draw her close to the brink and hold her there firmly.

Look down and tell me what you see, Therese. It is the very place to find your future mirrored to your sight.

"'Trne love, would ye, ladye fair?
Gaze, and see him mirrored there;
Brawny-shouldered, tall of hight,
Look and see your own true knight.'"

She uttered a little shriek-his act had been so sudden—and clung to him, affrighted and shuddering.
"Roland—oh, Roland! take me back."

She had given one glance down into the dark pool at their feet; her face had blanched, her eyes held a look of horror, her breath came in quick, panting gasps.
"Roland, quick! I shall die unless you take me back."

He drew her away with a second laugh and a caressing motion of his hand over

and a caressing motion of his hand over her dusky hair.

"So frightened, my pet? Don't you know all the forces in the world shouldn't harm you while I am by your side? I wanted you to see my face mirrored there—your own true knight!"

"And I never saw it at all. Oh, Roland, I only saw my own rigid and gheatly—my

"And I never saw it at all. Oh, Roland, I only saw my own, rigid and ghastly—my own dead face!"

He repressed a shiver, so vividly impressed was he by her wide eyes and the terror in her tone, but Therese did not suspect it.

"You are white as a sheet—no wonder was a looked deathly. It leaks a side your face looked deathly. It looks so still My own darling, can you forgive me the fright?"

She could have forgiven him very much more while his bold blue eyes fixed them-selves upon hers with that look, while his handsome blonde face, a little flushed with eagerness, softened, irresistible, bent above her own. She forgot the ghastly reflection which had startled her so, the chill fore-boding which had come with it, to blush and quiver under that gaze and make no

was not one to love me in my Southern home, you know—not mine now." She hurried away; her voice had broken a lit-tle at the last, and there were tears in the big dusky eyes, which Roland did not fail

A sensitive plant," he thought. "All the more charming because so unconscious-

His mother's hand descending lightly upon his arm, detained him as he was turning

away.
"What do you mean, Roland, trifling with that child? You might spare her, at "It is unlike my lady mother to intercede in such a case. It looks almost as if you might fear for me."

She looked at him steadily, fancying an under-ring of defiance in the reply.

"Perhaps I do—in one way. You would never be so foolish as to throw away your-self and your future upon that penniless girl; but Miss Allenton will scarcely endure to have you play at love-making under her

very eyes."
"Miss Allenton is not under compulsion

"Roland! remember—"
"I remember every thing. And I am more than half tempted to resign every thing which this insignificant affair of your Mice Allenton's averagement are proposed. Miss Allenton's awangement promises. I shall take the first opportunity to tell her so. There, she is coming now, I think."

They stood beneath the hall lamplight,

and there was a rustle of silken skirts audible above. Mrs. Proctor turned instantly, opening a door at their back.

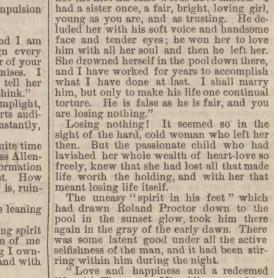
"Come in here, Roland. It is quite time you declare your intentions to Miss Allen-ton; but I have one piece of information this long withheld to give you first. How

hopeless do you suppose your case is, ruined as you know yourself?"

He had followed her in, and was leaning against the door-frame carelessly.

"Not so badly ruined but a willing spirit and hard work might make a man of me yet. I have squandered every thing I own-

ed, but I am my own master yet, and with a mind to remain so."
"That is the mistaken idea I have per-



"In tears, my dear. I hope-how I hope

it is not on account of that unhappy Roland. It is after his usual style to trifle

with every pretty girl he comes across, and

I have come purposely to warn you against him. I am a very lenient flancee, but I don't care to see you hopelessly entangled."

Therese was too miserable to resent her

"Then it is true," her quivering lips

And I am too late. I am sorry for you."

There was not much sincerity in the cold words, but Therese caught at them. She was only an impulsive child, not to be judg-

ed as one who had mingled with the world,

you have him in your power, but he loves me. He will hate you if he ever marries

you. Give him up, and he will pay you every thing in time, I know."
"Give him up to you? Never, for he

might find happiness there. He loves you, you say, and you believe it; but you are not the first his false words have misled. I

"He loves me," she said. "I know how

formed.

and knew it.

life with Therese, or Miss Allenton and her wealth—which?" That was the question he had been debating all the night. "I would choose the first if I dared—and I dare!" He said it to himself as the droopdare! He said it to himself as the droop-ing willow boughs, stirring in the wind, swept his face. He said it with a new, ten-der light breaking over his features, and burning in the eyes before which more than one woman's gaze had gone down consci-

Then suddenly a deathly pallid shade succeeded, and he sprung forward with a horrified cry. There, in the very edge of the pool, was a slight, still form, with sodden garments clinging about it, and a white dead face upturned—Therese

Did he marry Miss Allenton? Yes; and ran through the fortune she brought him and broke her heart at last, for even she,

and broke her heart at last, for even she, hard and cold and revengeful as she had avowed herself, could not withstand the bold beauty of his blonde face.

He is on the look-out for another wife and another fortune now, but under the brilliant life he has led, he is a haunted manhamted by the remembrance of sluggish, black water and the dead face of his one

love—Therese.

The "spirit in his feet" will carry him there again some day, when the work of re-morse and despair, long since begun, will

Beat Time's Notes.

My many friends lately presented me with a watch about the size of an eight-day clock—that is, a clock about eight days of age. It was accompanied with a speech and an elegant chain—somewhat of the log persuasion. I was perfectly bewildered at the extent of their kindness and the watch. They hoped it would always keep good time—or keep Time good; and I think if I would sell it, it would keep me six months, good. It is so large that I am compelled to take it to the well-curb to wind it, and I have serious thoughts of putting it out to board in some steeple and act in the capacity of a town clock. It has two hired hands at a dollar and a half a day to point to the time. It has such a big face that the hours are all two hours and a half long and it takes you ten minutes to tell the time. It keeps the kind of time that is very heavy on my hands-and its own. I can tell when it is day or night by looking at it. I wish their admiration hadn't been quite so large for me.

A Boy's Composition.—Spring. SPRING is a good thing, and it only hapens once in a while, and I am seven years old yet and have red hair. Spring is called the balmy season because, I suppose, it comes from Alabamy, and sister Sue had a beau last night. Farmers now plant their spring-guns, and they sometimes get a good deal of produce from the early shoots. I like apple dumplings with milk wrapped around them. I like to go to school first rate, but I don't like to stay there. I haven't got a cent. This is all I know about Spring. JEEMES BOGGS.

THE last cold weather in Maine was chily. The dispatch announcing it froze every operator's hands through which it passed. I took a very bad cold by just reading of it in the morning paper. The people in Maine had to keep their mouths closed, for, if they attempted to speak, they would freeze open, and all the thermometers had to put on extra overcoats, with warm bricks at their feet. Even people who stayed in the house were froze out. The temperance law suffered a great deal from the cold weather.

ONCE a careless man went to the cellar and put the candle in what he thought was a keg of black sand. He sat near it, drinking wine until the candle burned low; nearer and nearer it got to the black sand; nearer and nearer, until at last the blaze reached the black sand, and—as it was nothing else but black sand, nothing happen-I can never think of this without a thrill of horror.

John Simmons began business ten years ago with ten thousand dollars. By great economy and frugality, and much hard work and persistent effort, he managed to raise five cents the other day to get a glass of beer with.



Marion dropped her knitting and trem-Then she looked up and saw her

father standing in the doorway. "Papa, did you hear that?" Captain Macy was staring at Coffin with distended eyes. He had heard the sailor's

"Is that true, Jed Coffin?" he asked The money lies in the bank for your order, sir," and the rough sailor stood up

"Then God forgive me and bless you,
Jed. I treated you ill—"
"And I've taken my revenge, Cap. But
'tain't complete yet till I've done one thing
more—taken yer darter."

Take her, and God bless you." "Are you willin', Marion?"
And she said "Yes."

So Jed Coffin's revenge was complete.

Under the Willows.

BY JENNIE DAVIS BURTON.

THERE was a wind swaying the branches filtering tremulous lights and shades over the deadened sward, making plaintive whis-perings among the pines, and ash, and sup-ple hickory trees which stretched in an unbroken forest belt away to the back, but not a ripple or a dimple disturbed the black surface of the pool. Still and black and fringed about by a growth of weeping willows, whose long arms reached half-way out across, and let their drooping, slender twigs dabble down to the very water's edge, as if they would have shut it out from all the world, and mourned over the spot in their midst as what it most looked -a place accursed.

Two had come upon it unawares. There had been marshy land about once upon a time, and a causeway, the purpose for which was too far lost in obscurity to be even guessed at, led through an opening in the willows to skirt the pool for perhaps a quarter of its entire circumference. The marsh had disappeared long ago in one of the great changes which Nature is ever silently working; meadow-land lay on either side now, and grass and moss had grown thick over the causeway until it was like a regular elevated roadway, curving in its course. It was that had drawn Roland Proctor and Therese Dale away from the uncompromising straight stretch of avenue where the elms were like sentinels in their regular distances—that, and perhaps a lit-tle to get out of range of the eyes of those other two pacing slowly up and down the terrace fronting the house

It was just sunset, and a dart of the red

esistance when his arm circled about and held her to him in one moment's close embrace. It was the very moment of all their ives to speak the words which his looks and acts had been telling in these two weeks past since they had met first—only two weeks, but it takes so short a time for oung hearts to fire, and young loves to kindle into strong life.

It had grown rapidly dusk in that grim retreat under the willows. The shadows from the forest closed in beyond like impenetrable darkness, but the red glow lin gered yet upon the house and the slope leading down from it. The two figures had disappeared from the terrace, and one of them was advancing rapidly along the grass-grown old causeway, but neither of them had seen it as yet, so it was not that which left Roland Proctor wordless now, while they stood face to face, heart to heart, soul answering to soul in a mute confession of love, though in nothing

more.
His mouth swooped down daringly to fasten upon hers, hot, impassioned, thrilling, and in the same moment a cold, sharp voice called:

'Roland! Therese! where are you? They started guiltily apart and strolled side by side out from the denser shadow. It was Mrs. Proctor, standing with the full glow of the dying day lighting up her state-ly figure, her well-bred face, fair, firm and both like and unlike her son, turned doubtingly in the direction from which they It did not change at sight of them and Roland only distinguished the accent of relief in her voice as she spoke again.

"Ah, there you are. How very imprudent! Roland, you should not have permitted this thoughtless child to remain out so long with only that small wrap about her shoulders. Come. Therese.

She put out a hand which might have been marble for all the expression its touch conveyed—like herself, fair and hard, and cold—and drew Therese's palm within her arm. Roland smiled a lit-tle at that; it was very evident that the risk of further tete-a-tete was cut summarily off. Nevertheless, he strolled back with them

up the slope, and ascended the terrace steps after a quick glance to assure himself that the space beyond was now deserted.
"Five!" He counted the strokes of the loud-voiced clock in the hall. "Half-past! A whole half hour until dinner, yet. Come

to the music room, Therese. I want you to

play an accompaniment for me."
"My son, how inconsiderate you are. Go up to my room, my dear; tell Fifine to arrange your hair; and get over your chill. This bleak climate is a very great contrast

"Love is warmth—and you are so very kind." Therese colored and fire from the west pierced even to the lone-someness of the spot, streaming over Ro-land's face and then falling like a vivid scrutinizing gaze of the elder lady. "There

mitted you to entertain. You have not been your own master at any time for a year past, as you would have known had you concerned yourself far enough to examine all the papers you have signed. Those debts of yours which you supposed my own private funds liquidated were met by Miss Allenton; the mortgages which cover the property are all held by her; you and I are no better than beggars, and for a year past have actually been dependents upon her generosity. I can not think you meant what you hinted, of breaking the bonds which exist-certainly you will not contemplate any thing of the kind now. That is all I have to say."

She paused as if waiting some reply from him, but he merely moved aside and held the door for her to pass. They were much alike, mother and son, and his quiet de-meanor never changed. A shade which might have been regretswept over his face after she had gone as he glanced up and saw his full-length reflection in an opposite Sold for a price," he said to himself.

Well, so be it; but I wish-I really wish this last flirtation had never been. But pshaw! all girls are not the simpletons one proved herself. The spirit in my feet which took me to the pool to-night has its result in giving me the vapors, which, with all kindred evils—avaunt!"

He sauntered, out utterly forgetting the

look with which he had begged Therese to meet him in the music-room; that was the real intention his outspoken asking of her had conveyed. Therese had understood it so, and flew up one staircase to steal down another, and softly open the music-room door. Standing there she had heard all that had been said between the two in the room beyond.

What could it mean? Was it possible that Roland, her Roland—she thought it with a thrill, for only words had been lacking to assure her of that—was bound to another woman, and that other Miss Allenton, icy, artificial, and thirty-three? rese tried to smile at the improbable idea but her hot Southern blood was on fire, and she caught her breath in a dry sob instead. "If it is true I shall die," she exclaimed, passionately, to herself. "I would not live

another day if I thought it could be true." The jealousy awake within her did not cool under a contemplation of Roland's attentiveness to Miss Allenton during the evening. The fire had burned out, and she vas a miserable, tearful object, kneeling on the hearth in her own room, when Miss Allenton softly admitted herself there some six hours later. Therese did not suspect her presence until she stood by her side—a tall, thin, faded woman of thirty-three, who affected the manner and dress of seventeen. On this occasion, for the first time since their acquaintanceship, she dropped her assumption of youthfulness.